

7 killed in gas accident in Egypt

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt (R) — Six adults and a child died on Monday when chemicals at an army camp in a densely populated district caught fire and released clouds of choking smoke, Alexandria's Governor Sayed Al Jousaki said. He told reporters about 400 people were in hospital, 46 of them critically ill, after breathing fumes from the powder, used to create smokecreens during army manoeuvres. More than 1,000 civilians and troops were treated after the choking smoke spread over an area where about 250,000 people live, he said. In Cairo, an armed forces spokesman said the powder self-ignited at an army depot in the Al Wardian area of Alexandria. Alexandria University and about 40 schools were closed and doctors were urged to rush to hospitals in the Mediterranean port. An Interior Ministry official said earlier a "spontaneous interaction of a chemical powder stored in the camp" created the pall of smoke, which caused thousands to be evacuated from their homes around the camp. The official declined to specify the type of powder but said it was "used by armies as a smoke screen to camouflage movements."

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Regent attends army celebrations

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Monday patronised a celebration held by the First Royal Armoured Battalion to mark the 37th anniversary of its formation. Prince Hassan watched exercises, sports activities and contests staged by the battalion's personnel and took part in a mountaineering exercise. Prince Hassan distributed cups and prizes to the winners.

16 killed in French air crash

BORDEAUX, France (R) — A French commuter airliner crashed into a wood as it approached Bordeaux airport on Monday, killing all 16 passengers and crew, Air France said. The Brazilian-made Embraer Brasilia aircraft hurtled into flames when it hit the ground in foggy conditions a few hundred metres short of the runway at Bordeaux's Mergnac airport. Firemen found the badly burned bodies of the 13 passengers and three crew in the charred wreckage. The aircraft was an Air France flight from Amsterdam to Brussels and Bordeaux. Some of the passengers were Belgian children going to spend Christmas in southwest France, the airline said.

Egyptian envoy to Iraq presents credentials

BAGHDAD (R) — Egyptian Ambassador Ibrahim Auf presented his credentials in Iraq on Monday after the restoration of full diplomatic ties last month, an Egyptian embassy spokesman said. He said Mr. Auf was received by Izzat Ibrahim, vice-chairman of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council. Mr. Auf conveyed a message from President Hosni Mubarak to President Saddam Hussein, reaffirming support for Baghdad in all material and moral aspects.

Syria pledges help to Bonn

BONN (R) — Syria has told West Germany it will step up efforts to secure the release of Rudolf Cordes, a West German taken hostage in Beirut almost a year ago, a senior Bonn politician said on Monday. Hans Stercken, head of parliament's foreign relations committee, said after a trip to Damascus and Beirut that Syrian leaders said they would do more to help in return for better relations with Bonn and the European Community.

Hassan II calls OIC panel meeting

RABAT (R) — King Hassan of Morocco called on Monday for an urgent meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference's (OIC) Jerusalem Committee to examine violent clashes in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories. The official news agency MAP said the King, as chairman of the committee, had sent a message to Islamic heads of state suggesting that their foreign ministers attend the meeting in Morocco on Dec. 27.

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King urges Soviet Union to seek implementation of 598

His Majesty, in banquet speech in Moscow, conveys Arab call for peace in Gulf and settlement to Arab-Israeli conflict

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein on Monday renewed a call on the Soviet Union to work towards ending the Iran-Iraq war by ex-

The King, in a speech at a banquet hosted by Soviet President Andrei Gromyko on the first day of His Majesty's visit to the Soviet Union, also described the ongoing Palestinian protests in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip as a natural response of the Palestinian people who have been suffering under the Jewish state's occupation for the past 20 years.

In his speech, His Majesty congratulated the Soviet Union over the signing of an agreement with the U.S. earlier this month on eliminating all intermediate-range nuclear missiles and ex-

pressing hope that the same spirit of superpower understanding would prevail in other spheres of East-West confrontations.

In his comments on the Gulf war, the King pointed out that the Arab World, by adopting a unanimous stand on the side of

(Continued on page 3)



His Majesty King Hussein and Soviet President Andrei Gromyko head talks in Moscow on Monday

Iraq says 3,200 Iranians killed in two attacks

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said its forces killed more than 3,200 Iranians early on Monday in repulsing the second assault by Tehran's troops on the southern-central Gulf warfront in 36 hours. Baghdad's military spokesman Abdul Jabbar Muhsen told reporters the Iranian attack was launched at 6:40 a.m. (0340 GMT) east of Misan — on the northern edge of the Huweizah marshlands. "The attacking forces, from the 77th Infantry Division, were confronted with heavy Iraqi fire that prevented them from reaching even the forward Iraqi observation posts and no-man's land," Mr. Muhsen said.

Iran claimed its troops killed or wounded 1,000 Iraqis and foiled five Iraqi counter-attacks in the Fakkeh area, 50 kilometres east of Misan. Iran is widely expected to launch a major offensive on the southern front in the seven-year-old war, with the major southern Iraqi port of Basra regarded as a likely target.

Iran earlier had claimed its forces killed or wounded 1,500 Iraqis in a weekend thrust into Iraq, in the same general border region as Monday's fighting. "If the Iranians continue to carry out such attacks they will have to take massive losses without being able to gain an inch of land, as was demonstrated over the past two days," the Iraqi spokesman said Monday.

"Total enemy casualties exceeded 2,000 with military equipment destroyed and huge quantities of arms captured intact," a commander of Iraq's Fourth Army Corps which repelled the attack told the Defence Ministry newspaper Al Qadisiya.

A senior Iraqi officer said Iran threw two regular army brigades plus special forces into the battle, which ended on Sunday morning after 12 hours of fierce fighting. The Iranians did not say how many men were involved in the weekend attack around Zobeidat, 200 kilometres north of Basra.

The Baghdad spokesman said the Iranians were trapped by minefields and well-fortified Iraqi positions in front, while Iraqi artillery and tank shells were falling behind them.

Israeli troops kill 3 Arabs; protests engulf all Palestine

Combined agency dispatches

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Israeli troops killed three Palestinian protesters and wounded 12 others in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip on Monday as anti-occupation demonstrations spread to Arab towns inside Israel.

Two protesters were killed and several others injured at Toubas village near Nablus while a third man was killed at a refugee camp in Jenin, international news agencies reported. The killings raised the officially reported death toll to 19 in a wave of protests that began on Dec. 8 in the occupied Gaza Strip before spreading to the West Bank. Arab Jerusalem and, on Monday, to Arab towns inside Israel.

Arabs throughout Israel staged a general strike on Monday in solidarity with their brethren in the occupied territories.

Israeli officials said demonstrators threw five firebombs at Israeli police in the town of Jenin, 100 kilometres north of Jeru-

salem. The police opened fire, killing one and wounding four other Arabs, according to the officials.

In the nearby village of Toubas, the army said dozens of Arabs staged a violent protest and firebombs were thrown at Israeli troops. The army said two Arabs were killed, and reports said two others were wounded.

An 18-year-old boy from the occupied Gaza Strip also died of his wounds suffered earlier in a clash with troops, hospital officials told an Arab reporter. About 100 Arabs had been wounded by gunfire and about 200 arrested in the two weeks of protests, according to Israeli reports but other reports speak of over 500 wounded and at least 2,000 detained.

A police spokesman said there were 40 incidents of stone-throwing and other protests in Arab Jerusalem. Three Israelis were injured by stones.

At one point police ran out of tear gas and extra supplies had to be rushed to forces in the field, according to the spokesman.

The protests spread to Bethlehem on Monday when Palestinians hurled stones and bottles at Israeli troops and police guarding Manger Square. Residents said troops replied with tear-gas.

At least 10,000 demonstrators marched peacefully in the Nuseirat refugee camp in Gaza, chanting nationalist slogans and waving Palestinian flags while Israeli troops stood by.

"We're trying to be liberal," a senior police officer told Reuters. "We don't have to stop everything. Let them express themselves a bit."

The Palestine Press Service said Bassal Faisel, 18, who died in Toubas, was shot four times, once in the head.

A doctor and a nurse at the Al Itihad hospital in Nablus confirmed the death. They declined to give their names.

White-helmeted police fired tear gas and chased about 50 protesters in Nazareth.

Eight Arabs were handcuffed and carried away in a jeep, and

(Continued on page 4)

Resistance storms SLA in support of Palestinians

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Resistance fighters attacked Israeli-backed militiamen in South Lebanon on Monday, drawing heavy artillery retaliation, reports reaching here said.

Sources quoted by AP said 12 people were killed and 11 wounded.

The sources said the fighters attacked a position manned by the South Lebanon Army (SLA) on Ali Al Taher hill inside Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" before dawn.

Five attackers were killed and two SLA militiamen wounded in close-quarter combat before the resistance fighters withdrew after a two-hour firefight, the sources added.

An Israeli army spokesman in Tel Aviv confirmed that five fighters of Hizbollah (Party of God) were killed, but said only one SLA militiaman was wounded.

A Hizbollah communique said an Israeli Merkava tank was set on fire in the attack.

SLA and Israeli artillery in the "security zone" fired hundreds of shells into the market town of Nabatiyeh and seven surrounding villages in apparent retaliation for the raid. Israeli helicopter gunships strafed nearby olive groves.

Police said five civilians and two policemen were killed and nine civilians, including two Lebanese Red Cross volunteers, were wounded when their ambulance was hit by shellfire.

The assault was seen as a display of support of Palestinian protests in the occupied territories.

The fighting erupted as Arabs in Israel joined Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza in a general strike to protest against the killing of Arab demonstrators by Israeli troops in the occupied territories.

The Iran-financed Islamic Resistance, comprising Hizbollah fighters and other groups, said in a statement in the southern port of Sidon that its members had attacked several SLA posts.

"It was a big attack to salute our struggling brothers in the occupied land. These attacks will surely boost their morale and give them an incentive to continue," an Islamic Resistance official told Reuters in Beirut.

The Hizbollah-run "Voice of Islam" radio, monitored in the eastern town of Baalbeck, said the attack "was a gift from the Islamic Resistance to the Muslims of occupied Palestine."

USSR strongly supports Jordan's NIHO proposal

By a Staff Reporter

IN A WELCOME move, the Soviet Union sponsored a resolution at the recently concluded session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York to support the Jordanian proposal concerning a New International Humanitarian Order (NIHO). The Soviet resolution was adopted by the General Assembly by consensus on the recommendation of its Third Committee which deals with humanitarian questions.

The proposal to promote the new humanitarian order was made by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to the General Assembly and has been the subject of a series of supporting resolutions. It also led to the establishment of a high-powered

Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues (ICHI) whose final report was a subject of discussion this year. In its preamble, the Soviet resolution recognises "the positive role played by ICHI." The resolution forcefully calls for "international cooperation in the humanitarian field." Observers at the United Nations viewed the Soviet move as a manifestation of its new policies in the context of "glasnost."

According to the resolution, the General Assembly is expected to discuss the question of international cooperation when it discusses the New International Humanitarian Order at its next session.

The United Nations secretary general, Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, is expected to make a



comprehensive report on NIHO next year dealing, among other things, with the matters raised by the Soviet resolution. The secretary general's report is called for under another resolution which was moved earlier by the Jordanian delegation and which was also adopted by consensus by the General Assembly. Full texts of the two resolutions appear on page 5.

Arabs express solidarity with Palestinians

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Cars stopped and government offices fell silent for one minute in Kuwait on Monday in a show of solidarity with Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories.

The minute of silence at noon, called by the Arab League at an emergency meeting in Tunis on Dec. 15, coincided with a general strike by Palestinians in Israel and the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In Kuwait, residents said the minute of silence was widely observed in government institutions, but less so in the private sector.

At Arab League headquarters in Tunis, officials halted work, while the people of Algeria and Morocco observed a minute's silence, radios reported.

In Egypt, university students heeded the Arab League call.

Students also burned a replica of the Israeli flag after the government on Sunday lodged its fifth angry protest with Israel over the violence in the West Bank and Gaza.

South Yemen also observed a one-minute silence Monday in solidarity with the Palestinians.

In Aden, sirens blew and were broadcast by the state-run radio to alert inhabitants as the noon hour struck.

In the United Arab Emirates (UAE), hundreds of Palestinians gathered at the Abu Dhabi office of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in what an official said was "an open-ended protest in solidarity with our heroic brothers."

In Rome, Archbishop Hilarion Capucci, the controversial former head of the Greek Catholic (Melkite) church in Jerusalem, began a hunger strike on Monday over Israel's handling of the protests in the occupied territories.

A spokesman for Archbishop Capucci, who on Sunday prayed in St. Peter's Square with 10 Arab ambassadors, told Reuters the archbishop had started an indefinite hunger strike in the Rome office of the Arab League to express solidarity with the Palestinians.

Archbishop Capucci was head of the Greek Catholic Church in Jerusalem until 1974 when he was convicted by an Israeli court of smuggling weapons to Palestinians. He was released three years later on health grounds after intervention by Pope Paul VI.

In Cairo, Coptic Christian Pope Shenouda III on Monday was reported to have appealed to Christians around the world to boycott Christmas celebrations in Bethlehem on the occupied West Bank to protest Israeli military action against the Palestinians living in the occupied territories.

Britain pledges to seek end to Israeli oppression

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The British government has pledged to act bilaterally and through the United Nations and the European Community (EC) to help end the cycle of violence and ease Israeli oppression of Palestinians in the occupied territories.

British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe, responding to a letter from Liberal Party member Lord Winchilsea, said he will urge the Israelis to withdraw from the Arab territories occupied since 1967.

He urged Israel to behave "scrupulously, in accordance with international law," pending its withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza.

The foreign secretary's letter, a copy of which was made available to the Jordan Times on Monday, said that Britain, "together with our partners in the Twelve (members of the EC), maintain a constant dialogue with the Israelis over human rights conditions in the occupied territories."

Mr. Howe said Britain "condemns the practice of administrative detention" against Palestinians in the occupied territories. He said Britain had "already contacted the Israeli embassy about the case of Mr. Radwan Abu Ayyash (president of the Arab journalists association in Jerusalem), and will continue to monitor the case as it advances through the appeals procedure."

Mr. Abu Ayyash was recently detained under an Israeli administrative detention law which allows Israel to detain Palestinian citizens for six months without charge or trial.

Mr. Abu Ayyash was host for a British Liberal Party delegation led by Lord Winchilsea that visited the occupied territories and Jordan earlier this month. When he was served with his administrative detention order last week, his jailors suggested that "this would teach him to avoid foreign visitors," Lord Winchilsea reported to Mr. Howe.

A motion notice issued by the House of Commons given on Friday said the British lawmakers

(Continued on page 3)

Philippine disaster worse than Titanic

MANILA (R) — A Philippine ferry packed with Christmas travellers sank in flames late on Sunday with the apparent loss of more than 1,500 lives in the biggest peacetime shipping disaster since the Titanic.

Only 26 survivors were listed by the coastguard after the Manila-bound ferry Dona Paz and an oil tanker named Victor went to the bottom after colliding in darkness off the island of Mindoro. Nearly a day after rescue ships

reported finding no trace of either vessel or any more survivors in the operation disrupted by bad weather (See story on page 8).

The Philippine disaster could replace the sinking of the liner Titanic as the greatest maritime disaster in years of peace.

More than 1,500 people drowned or died of exposure in 1912 when the Titanic hit an iceberg on its maiden voyage from England to New York.

Saudi leader arrives in Cairo, hails Palestinians

CAIRO (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah arrived in Egypt on Monday and praised the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"We are proud of the uprising of the Palestinians in confrontation with the bullets of the (Israeli) assassins," he said in a statement.

"We will remain by your (Palestinian) side and spare no effort until the restoration of your rights and we are confident that you will win."

The prince, accompanied by a large economic and military delegation, was given a red-carpet welcome at Kubbah Palace.

Prince Abdullah has already visited Iraq and Syria and is expected to go on to Jordan. He was due to meet Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak for talks aimed at promoting relations, restored last month after eight years.

Agency (SANA) said Prince Abdullah, in talks with President Hafez Al Assad, discussed the Iran-Iraq war, the Arab-Israeli conflict and inter-Arab relations. Prince Abdullah is trying to speed up the reconciliation between Mr. Assad and Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

After meeting Prince Abdullah on Sunday, Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam made an apparent reference to the reconciliation effort when he told reporters he hoped to achieve "what we all wish for."

"We should all work toward a better atmosphere in the Arab World; which will enable us to confront all the dangers that threaten the Arab World, and especially those created by Israel," he added.

But the Syrian media quoted him as saying that no reconciliation was possible between Syria and Egypt until Cairo abrogated its 1979 treaty with Israel.

Gulf war marks bloodiest year at sea; peace hopes reportedly dim

By Stephen Jukes
Reuter

BAHRAIN — Stalemate on the battlefield and carnage at sea — 1987 was the year that Iran and Iraq's bloody vendetta finally captured world headlines and sucked the superpowers into the Gulf war arena.

But despite an armada of Western warships patrolling the Gulf, more seamen died than in any of the war's previous six years and prospects for peace in 1988 appear as slim as ever.

Western diplomats in the Gulf said even a new readiness by Moscow to back an Iranian arms embargo was unlikely to break diplomatic deadlock at the United Nations or halt fighting.

"The only hope for an end to the war seems to be the United Nations... but the chances are slim and it looks like the fighting will just roll on for another year," said one diplomat.

Another said: "There are fears that superpower politics will get in the way at the U.N. and peace is secondary."

Moscow made a series of well received overtures to moderate Arab states in early 1987, but is now viewed with deep suspicion after a warming of relations with Iran in past months.

And there are lingering fears among Gulf states over Washington's long-term commitment to the region. Some fear that the U.S. only agreed to protect Kuwaiti tankers under the Stars and Stripes in mid-year to keep Soviet influence at bay.

Diplomats see the biggest uncertainty for 1988 in a possible change of Iranian leadership. Spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, 85, has long been rumored to be ill.

No radical shift in Tehran's hostility to the "great satan" — the United States — or Iraq is expected whatever the outcome of a likely succession struggle between politicians and clerics.

But the impact on morale in Iran's army is less easily assessed. Under the influence of Khomeini, thousands are ready to die as martyrs in trench warfare unmatched for its ferocity since World War I.

Iran relies most heavily on its superior manpower on the ground, and 1988 may start with a rerun of January 1987 — Iranian troops advancing on Iraq's southern city Basra.

But military analysts believe Iran still lacks the air cover needed to score a decisive victory and a long-awaited offensive by massed troops has so far failed to materialise.

A push by Iran north east of Basra earlier this week may have been testing defenses. Iraq claims it repulsed two brigades with heavy losses. Iran said it was

simply a raid.

At sea, Iraq is expected to keep up relentless pressure against Iran's fleet of oil tankers, sending daily raiding sorties of Mirage jets armed with French-made Exocet missiles.

Twenty-one sailors lost their lives 10 days ago when missiles slammed into the Norwegian-operated tanker *Susangir* on the treacherous Iranian crude shuttle-run down the Gulf.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards have attacked neutral shipping with a new ferocity, this month sinking their first ship since the so-called tanker war flared in 1984.

Their hit-and-run tactics fly in the face of Western navies — now with some 80 warships, minesweepers and support vessels in the region — and diplomats say attacks are becoming bolder.

At least 71 merchant seamen have died this year and 37 U.S. sailors were killed when an Iraqi *Exocet* hit the frigate *Stark* in May. In 1986, 52 seamen were killed, while the number of Iraqi and Iranian attacks has risen to at least 135 from 80.

On the diplomatic front, U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar is still trying to rally support for an arms embargo against Iran to force Tehran's leadership to accept the Security Council's July 20 ceasefire call.

But diplomats said the Soviet Union, which has long blocked the move, was probably asking too high a price to secure a deal with the United States and Britain — namely the formation of a

joint U.N. naval force to police an embargo.

Washington has made clear it would view with suspicion any move that might reduce its huge presence in the Gulf and allow Moscow to increase its foothold.

A compromise would be a limited U.N. force to check vessels entering the Gulf for Iran-bound weapons, but military analysts doubt an embargo would be effective or alter Tehran's refusal to accept a ceasefire.

"I think we will see more of the same in 1988," said a Western diplomat. "Iran will play for time and every so often the war will spill over."

Kuwait, which triggered closer superpower involvement when it sounded out Moscow on chartering tankers to protect oil exports from Iranian attack, has been at the receiving end.

Ten bomb blasts have rocked Kuwait this year, the most serious on May 22 when fire at the Al Ahmadi industrial complex threatened to engulf key oil installations. Local newspapers blamed pro-Iranian Kuwaiti extremists.

Kuwait has also become a firing range for Iran's Chinese-designed *Silkworm* missiles, one of which slammed into a U.S. flag Kuwaiti tanker the Sea Isle City off its shores in October.

Saudi Arabia has also felt Iran's wrath, with attacks against its oil tankers and riots in the Holy City of Mecca in late July. The Saudi and Kuwaiti embassies were later stormed in Tehran.

Freij curtails Christmas festivities

BETHLEHEM. Occupied West Bank (AP) — Mayor Elias Freij said Monday non-religious Christmas celebrations would be cancelled to protest the killing of Arabs in a wave of unrest in the occupied territories.

Mr. Freij made the announcement as shopkeepers in the town where Jesus was born observed a total, one-day commercial strike.

"I have decided to do this to express my anger and dissatisfaction at the Israeli occupation," Mr. Freij said.

Official Christmas functions in Bethlehem, which had been scheduled to begin Thursday, include an annual reception attended by Israeli officials that symbolises Arab-Jewish coexistence.

Mr. Freij said he would cancel the Christmas Eve reception and also the traditional Boy Scout parades which are a staple of celebrations that were scheduled to start Thursday.

"We have to show solidarity with our people. We cannot have a cocktail party during such a tense situation," Mr. Freij told reporters after meeting with city leaders.

One incident was reported in Bethlehem, which has been quiet through most of the two weeks of unrest in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Ibrahim Shahed, a reporter for Israel Radio, said shortly before 9 a.m. (0700 GMT) a dozen teenagers demonstrated in a side alley near Manger Square. Israeli soldiers fired three or four shots in the area to disperse them, he said. There were no injuries.

Manger Square and surrounding streets were deserted. Christmas pilgrims, which numbered more than 50,000 last year, would normally be shopping for olive wood manger scenes, crosses, and carvings of the last supper.

"We are very disappointed. We are just back from Jerusalem where everything is closed," Mogens Gronne of Holstebro, Denmark, said he and some friends were caught in a demonstration in Jerusalem on Friday.

Shaikha Erez, head of Israel's military government in the West Bank, arrived after Mr. Freij's announcement to talk with city officials and a representative of Israel's Tourism Ministry. He declined to speak with reporters.

Mr. Freij said it was the first time the reception has been cancelled in Bethlehem, six kilometres south of Jerusalem.

"This is the worst time we have had in 20 years. I hope this (the strike throughout the Arab sector) will be seriously studied by the Israeli government to activate the peace process," he said.

Anton Andoni, who runs a snack bar near Manger Square said he was "losing a lot of business" as a result of the strike.

Sudanese troops advance on Kurmuk

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan said on Monday its troops had advanced to the outskirts of a southern rebel-held border town and had smashed a spy-ring helping the guerrillas.

State Radio Omdurman said the army scored a series of successes in a drive to recapture Kurmuk and inflicted heavy losses on the rebels.

"Our troops are now on the outskirts of Kurmuk," the radio said in a report from the south eastern Blue Nile province.

The rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) claimed on Friday that it had thrown back the government's third attempt to recapture Kurmuk, some 600 kilometres south east of Khartoum.

The SPLA took Kurmuk on Nov. 12 in its first successful campaign outside the south since the war began in 1983. Earlier this month, it drove state troops from nearby Gizen town.

An army commander in Damazin, the Blue Nile provincial capital, told the Sudanese news agency SUNA that military intelligence had arrested three spies in "a vital government installation."

Maj.-Gen. Zein Al Abidin Qasmallah said the engineer and two workers gave the SPLA details of army movements in the Damazin area and of defences at the facility employing them.

He did not identify the men or where they worked. There is a strategic hydro-electric dam on the Blue Nile near Damazin.

It supplies Khartoum with part of its electricity and regulates the flow of Nile waters from the Ethiopian highlands down to Sudan and Egypt.

Senior officials meanwhile told the independent daily Al Itihad that the SPLA had contacted Khartoum about the possibility of resuming talks held earlier this month in London.

They said the rebels were last in touch with the government on Sunday to express their goodwill. But Information Minister Al Toum Mohammad Al Toum said Khartoum had no current plans to talk to the SPLA.

Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi said after the London talks there was potential for the Arab and Muslim north to reach a peaceful solution to the conflict with the mainly Christian and animist south.

Sudan has accused Ethiopia of helping the SPLA to capture Kurmuk while Addis Ababa charges that Sudan aids secessionists inside Ethiopia.

Shawa seeks help from U.S. to end Arab plight under Israeli occupation

AMMAN (J.T.) — A prominent leader from the occupied Gaza Strip has appealed to the chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Subcommittee to seek an end to the plight of the Palestinian people under Israel's occupation.

Rashad Shawa, the Israeli-deposed mayor of Gaza and president of the Benevolence Society for the Gaza Strip, said in a cable to Mr. Lee Hamilton that "thousands of innocent people have and are being killed and property destroyed... because of the great unforgettable injustice inflicted upon us."

Following is the full text of the cable, a copy of which was made available to the Jordan Times on Monday. The cable was dated Dec. 14, 1987.

"Dear Mr. Chairman, the war began in 1983. Earlier this month, it drove state troops from nearby Gizen town.

"From Gaza Strip and the West Bank, both under harsh and inhumane Israeli occupation since 1967, I feel it is my duty to send you this cable, in your capacity as chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East, to draw your attention to what is going on in these lands, where human beings, whose homeland and properties have been usurped from them since 1948 and 1967, are being treated, because they are trying to raise their voices in protest against the injustices inflicted upon them, and their children, and because of their protests against, and disapproval of the continued Israeli occupation and oppression."

"Mr. Chairman, thousands of innocent people have and are being killed, and property destroyed, and will continue to be, because of the great unforgettable injustice inflicted upon us."

"Please explain the real situation and implications of this very intricate problem to your honourable colleagues, and do something to resolve this problem, in a fair, just, and permanent manner that will help bring permanent peace to this troubled area."

"Mr. Chairman, I thank you for the trouble you have so kindly taken to read this cable."

Oslo rejects shipowners' request for protection

OSLO (R) — Norway said on Monday it had turned down a request from its shipowners for their vessels to be protected by Western warships patrolling the Gulf.

"We have asked the Foreign Ministry to take up the question of protection for our ships with allies who already have military vessels in the Gulf," Arild Wegener, spokesman for the Norwegian Shipowners' Association, told Reuters.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Per Paust said: "We have received the letter, but have no intention of approaching our allies with the proposal."

Mr. Paust said the proposal was unacceptable and repeated calls for a United Nations peacekeeping force to protect tankers from attack by Iran and Iraq in the Gulf.

Oslo shipping sources say Norwegians have a stake in every fourth ship sailing in the Gulf, with about 25 Norwegian

ships in the area at any one time. Eleven days ago, a Norwegian-managed tanker was hit by Iraqi missiles and 21 of the crew died

including its Norwegian captain. It was the biggest death toll in a single attack on merchant shipping in the region.

Ozal names new cabinet

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal announced on Monday a cabinet of both familiar and new faces to grapple with pressing economic and other domestic issues.

Major appointments included Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz, Defence Minister Ercan Vuralhan and State Ministers Adnan Kahveci and Mehmet Yazar.

Mr. Ozal, who won a new five-year mandate last month, has made continued economic reform and Turkish entry to the European Community (EC) major goals of his new administration.

He enlarged the cabinet's size to 25 from 23, adding two state ministerial posts. The list was approved by President Kenan Evren.

Mr. Ozal kept Finance Minister Ahmet Kucuktepe, Alptemokin and Deputy Prime Minister Kaya Erdem.

Apart from Mr. Kahveci and Mr. Vuralhan, other new faces include Health Minister Bulent Akarcali, Labour and Social Security Minister Imren Aykut —

the only woman in the cabinet — and Communications Minister Ekrem Pakdemirli.

Mr. Ozal also appointed younger brother Yusuf Ozal to the cabinet for the first time, as a state minister.

The new cabinet indicates that Mr. Ozal plans no major policy shifts in his drive for full economic liberalisation, more democratic freedoms and full political stability.

He has given greater emphasis to Western-educated liberal members of the ruling Motherland Party, a loose-grouping ranging from people with Islamic fundamentalist views to centrists.

Mr. Ozal welded the party to fight the 1983 election after three years of military rule following an army coup that crushed extremist political violence.

Foreign Minister Yilmaz, 40, was tourism minister in the previous cabinet. An English and German speaker, he did postgraduate studies in Cologne.

Israel to sack 4 soldiers over hang-glider attack

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli army said on Monday it was dismissing an officer and three soldiers for failing to halt a hang-glider attack by a Palestinian who killed six soldiers in northern Israel last month.

"The service of an officer and three non-commissioned-officers who did not live up to reasonable standards under fire will be terminated," an army spokesman said.

He said army Chief of Staff General Dan Shomron ordered the dismissals which Maj.-Gen. Matan Vilnay recommended after investigating the Nov. 25 attack on an army base near Kiryat Shmona.

"The issue of an officer and two additional soldiers whose behaviour was found to be deficient will be handled by their commanding officer," the spokesman said.

Libya, Algeria sign 4 treaties

BEIRUT (R) — Libya and Algeria signed four bilateral treaties as part of the strengthening of ties among the five Maghreb states, Libya's official news agency (JANA) said.

The agency, monitored in Beirut, said the treaties were finalised at the closing session of the joint Libyan-Algerian Arab Executive Committee meeting. "Both countries signed four

treaties: to cooperate on the level of manpower, cultural activities, social insurance as well as tourism," the agency said.

Earlier on Sunday, JANA said that Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi opened talks in Tripoli with Algerian Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Brahimi and praised unity efforts by President Chadli Benjedid of Algeria.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION
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PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 Kotan
15:50 Programme review
16:00 Children's programmes
16:50 Scientific programme for children

17:15 ALF
17:45 Islam and Life in Arabic
18:10 Local series
19:00 Message from Oman
19:15 Local programme on education
19:50 Programme review and varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic Series
21:30 Local Legal Panel
22:15 Varieties programme
23:00 News summary in Arabic
23:10 Close down

PROGRAMME TWO
16:30 American Basketball
18:50 Hotel de Police
19:00 News in French
19:15 Un Oh de plus (music)
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Farfara of the F.O. (comedy)
21:00 Master Work
21:10 Remington Steele
22:00 News in English
22:30 Beethoven Thel

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& partly on 99.0 KHz. SW
Tel: 77411-19

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsdesk
08:00 Morning Show
08:10 News Summary
08:11 Just a Minute
08:12 Follow the Wind
08:20 News Summary
12:05 70-Minute Theatre
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session Contd.
14:00 News Bulletin
14:15 Instrumentals
14:30 Easy Listening
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:05 Instrumentals
16:30 Old Favourites
17:30 Pop Session
17:30 News Summary
18:05 Top Twenty
18:30 Music
19:00 News Desk
19:30 Date with a Star

20:00 Evening Show
21:00 Evening Show Contd.
21:05 News Summary
22:05 Evening Show Continued
23:00 News Summary
23:05 Evening Show Continued
24:00 Close Down

BBC WORLD SERVICE
630, 720, 1325 KHz

06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 Organisms of Paris 06:45 Reflections 06:50 Financial News 07:00 World News 07:09 24 Hours: News Summary 07:30 Nature Notebook 07:45 Record of the Week 08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 A Future for the Past 09:00 World News 09:24 Tuning Point 09:45 News 10:00 World News 10:09 Reflections 10:15 Tech Talk 10:30 From the Pops 11:00 World News 11:09 British Press Review 11:15 Good Books 11:30 Financial News 11:45 Sports Roundup 11:55 A Muzart Miscellany 12:00 News Summary: Discovery 12:35 A Letter from Scotland 12:50 Citizens 13:00 World News 13:09 News About Britain 13:15 Waveguide 13:25 Book Choice 13:30 World News Summary 14:00 Newsdesk 14:15 Hoxa 14:45 Sports Roundup 15:00 World News 15:09 24 Hours: News Summary 15:30 Network U.K. 15:45 Recording of the Week 16:00 News Summary: Outlook 16:45 Organisms of Paris 17:00 Radio Newsdesk 17:09 Comments 17:15 Questions of Faith 17:45 Kites of Spring 18:00 World News 18:09 A Letter from Scotland 18:15 Citizens 18:30 Performance Early Music 19:09 Commentary 19:15 Drama Serial 19:20 Open Devotion 19:45 The History of Radio Comedy 19:40 Book Choice 19:50 Sports Roundup 20:00 Newsdesk

VOICE OF AMERICA
MH 1290 & SW 720, 985, 11740, 1925 and 15710 Hz

06:00 News 06:10 Newsdesk 06:30 VOA Morning 07:00 News 07:10 Newsdesk 07:30 VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10 Newsdesk 08:30 VOA Morning 08:40 News 08:50 Newsdesk 09:00 News 09:10 Newsdesk 09:30 VOA Morning 09:40 News 09:50 Newsdesk 10:00 News 10:10 Newsdesk 10:30 VOA Morning 10:40 News 10:50 Newsdesk 11:00 News 11:10 Newsdesk 11:30 VOA Morning 11:40 News 11:50 Newsdesk 12:00 News 12:10 Newsdesk 12:30 VOA Morning 12:40 News 12:50 Newsdesk 13:00 News 13:10 Newsdesk 13:30 VOA Morning 13:40 News 13:50 Newsdesk 14:00 News 14:10 Newsdesk 14:30 VOA Morning 14:40 News 14:50 Newsdesk 15:00 News 15:10 Newsdesk 15:30 VOA Morning 15:40 News 15:50 Newsdesk 16:00 News 16:10 Newsdesk 16:30 VOA Morning 16:40 News 16:50 Newsdesk 17:00 News 17:10 Newsdesk 17:30 VOA Morning 17:40 News 17:50 Newsdesk 18:00 News 18:10 Newsdesk 18:30 VOA Morning 18:40 News 18:50 Newsdesk 19:00 News 19:10 Newsdesk 19:30 VOA Morning 19:40 News 19:50 Newsdesk 20:00 News 20:10 Newsdesk 20:30 VOA Morning 20:40 News 20:50 Newsdesk 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King urges Soviet efforts for peace

(Continued from page 1)

calling on the Security Council to seek to implement Resolution 598 in letter and spirit and the chronological order of the steps contained therein, had made its position clear. He noted that Iraq had expressed its willingness to accept Resolution 598 but Iran "is still persistent in rejecting the international will and continues to defy all efforts for establishing peace."

"Iran's leaders continue to issue war threats and statements expressing their determination to pursue the war and aggression which have become a source of threat not only to regional stability but also to world peace and security," the King said.

"I voice that Arab Nation's hope that your country will employ its influence and international weight for implementing the Security Council resolution and force Iran to abide by the international will and legitimacy," His Majesty told the Soviet president.

On the Arab-Israeli conflict, the King noted that the views of Jordan and the Soviet Union "converged on the need for convening an international conference... attended by the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council as well as all parties involved... including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)."

Noting that the Amman Arab summit also reaffirmed the Arab "orientation towards a just peace in conformity with international legitimacy" and that "an international conference is the only means for achieving the aspired-for peace" in the Middle East, the King said: "We have great confidence that the Soviet Union shares with us the view... as it did in the past... and will exert all possible efforts for making this Arab orientation successful because this is the orientation of world nations towards peace and justice."

"As you know, I have come to your country leaving behind me an upsurge of popular resistance in the occupied Arab territories against the occupation and the occupation authorities," the King continued. "What is strange there is the behaviour of the Israeli leadership, which is still working to mislead itself by claiming that the revolt is the making of foreign and extremist source. In reality, this revolt represents a natural and real response of the Palestinian people... suffering under Israeli occupation for the past 20 years. The Israeli leadership should realise that its interpretation of the events is bound to harm peace efforts as much as it serves to deceive the Israeli people themselves."

Prior to His Majesty's speech, President Gromyko delivered an address affirming Moscow's total support for Resolution 598.

"It is insufficient that Iraq alone is ready for a political settlement," Mr. Gromyko said. "The international community has the right to expect practical steps towards peace from Iran as well. Of course, it would be preferable if the two sides sat down at the negotiating table themselves."

Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor arrived here Monday noon on a state visit expected to last several days. President Andrei Gromyko and Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze led the Soviet delegation that greeted Their Majesties upon arrival with a grand welcoming ceremony.

Shortly after arrival, the King held a round of talks with President Gromyko. The talks covered the Iran-Iraq war and the Arab-Israeli conflict as well as Jordanian-Soviet relations and means to strengthen bilateral cooperation.

The Jordanian side to the talks included His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and Jordan's ambassador to the Soviet Union, Mr. Faleh Tawil.

The Soviet side to the meeting included Mr. Shevardnadze and the ministers of defence, foreign trade and economic cooperation and the Soviet ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Alexander Zinchuk.

His Majesty is scheduled to hold talks with Mr. Gorbachev today. During the talks, the King is expected to urge the Soviet leadership to back an international arms embargo against Iran in view of Tehran's refusal to accept Resolution 598.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cabinet approves accord to build road

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet has approved an agreement with a consultancy firm to conduct a feasibility study and prepare designs and documents for the Azraq-Iraqi border road. The government is to spend JD 64,000 to finance the feasibility study for the road. The Cabinet also decided to exempt all commodities imported by the Civil Service Consumer Corporation from any customs duty in the coming year. The corporation is expected to import commodities worth JD 4.5 million if no similar commodities are produced in Jordan.

Pakistani president meets Lawzi

ISLAMABAD (Petra) — Pakistani President Zia Ul Haq received in his office here Monday Dr. Salem Al Lawzi, under secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, now on an official visit to Pakistan. The Pakistani president said he hoped that exchanges of visits by officials from Pakistan and Jordan would contribute to enhancing bilateral relations. Dr. Lawzi and his accompanying delegation arrived in Islamabad on Sunday.

Bataineh presents credentials to At Attas

ADEN (Petra) — Jordan's new ambassador to South Yemen, Saad Al Bataineh, Monday presented his credentials to President Haidar Abu Bakr Al Attas. The ambassador conveyed to the president greetings from His Majesty King Hussein for continued health and happiness and more progress and prosperity for the Yemeni people. The president requested that his greetings and those of the Yemeni people be conveyed to King Hussein and the Jordanian people.

Energy team to visit U.S. this month

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources will leave for the U.S. at the end of this month on a week-long visit during which they will acquaint themselves with the latest systems used in prospecting for oil. The delegation includes officials from the Natural Resources Authority (NRA).

Britain to seek to end Israeli oppression

(Continued from page 1)

noted "with alarm and concern the widespread violence, amounting to an unarmed civil insurrection, in the occupied West Bank and Gaza."

It noted that "the prime minister (Mrs. Margaret Thatcher) was warned about the imminence of the violence less than 72 hours before it broke out by a returning United Kingdom (Liberal Party) political delegation."

It said the House of Commons believes that "the cause of the violence is the total frustration of the people of the area at the failure of the occupying power to make any effort to reach a settlement of the occupation or even to discuss a settlement with the people's representatives, coupled with a palpable, eye-witnessed and growing brutality by the occupation forces, whose actions over the past 10 days, which include an increase in lethal violence against the occupied peo-

ples, yet again demonstrate the futility and pointlessness of the occupation and the failure of the occupation as a policy."

"Further notes that excessive repression will serve only to deepen the crisis and widen the danger of the situation running out of control, perhaps provoking outside intervention; calls upon the occupying power, Israel, to take immediate steps to end the military brutality and to withdraw the army from the area and to begin a process of realistic negotiation with the people of the occupied territories and their representatives with a view to reaching a political solution and calls upon Her Majesty's government to encourage and assist Israel to take these steps."

The House of Commons' motion and another deploring the detention of Mr. Abu Ayyash will appear each day in the House of Commons' order paper (agenda) for about 50 days through the end of April, 1988.

Crown Prince to preside over meeting on journalism

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, will hold a meeting in the coming two days with a committee charged with following up the implementation of resolutions adopted by a two-day seminar on problems facing journalists in Jordan, according to a spokesman for the Jordanian Press Association (JPA).

He said that the committee which prepared for the seminar will serve as a follow-up committee for the implementation of resolutions and recommendations.

The committee groups representatives of the ministries of higher education, information, labour, education and the Civil Service Commission, Yarmouk University, JPA, Housing Bank and the graduates of the Department of Communication and Mass Media at Yarmouk University.

The seminar called in a statement issued Sunday evening for an amendment to the JPA law and the press and publication law

so as to accommodate new journalist graduates as supporting JPA members while preserving rights of present members.

The seminar also called for adopting a national strategy on communication processes which would reflect Jordan's centrist policies and serve as a bridge linking Jordan with the rest of the world.

The seminar urged the Ministry of Labour to refrain from issuing work permits to non-Jordanians without prior approval from the JPA.

Prince Hassan, who patronised the seminar, stressed the need for the information media to concentrate efforts on creating more skilled and trained manpower which can interact and deal with technological developments in the field of communication.

He also noted that freedom of the press in Jordan was comparatively broad and that Jordanian journalists ought to benefit from it towards promoting the profession of journalism.

Ministry to issue new forms of work permits soon

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Labour will issue new forms of work permits for non-Jordanian workers with special designs that would be impossible to forge, according to Ministry of Labour's spokesman.

He said that Minister of Labour Khaled Haj Hassan has approved the new design which will go into force soon.

The minister said that the measure has been adopted following the discovery of forged work per-

mits in the possession of a number of non-Jordanian workers.

These forged documents were never issued by any labour office in Jordan; and the non-Jordanian workers found possessing these documents were referred to security authorities for investigation, the minister noted.

Mr. Haj Hassan praised the efforts of police authorities in their drive to apprehend the forgers.

Government to step up efforts to find jobs for engineers

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Public Works Mahmoud Al Hawamdeh Monday said that the government was planning to send official delegations to visit Arab countries to discuss the possibility of finding job opportunities for Jordanian engineers there. The minister, in a speech opening a seminar which began Monday on unemployment among engineers said the ministry would support a plan by the University of Jordan to set up a prequalification and training programme for newly graduate engineers in maintenance field.

Mr. Hawamdeh said that decisions taken by a ministerial committee formed earlier this year by the Cabinet to study the unemployment problem in Jordan would include giving priority development projects which employ large numbers of manpower.

He added that it will be compulsory for municipal and village councils to appoint engineers to

supervise their projects as well as encouraging light industry.

Professional associations hail Palestinian revolt

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Representatives of professional associations on Monday saluted the "the popular uprising of the courageous people" in the Israeli-occupied territories and called on the international community to pressure Israel to stop its oppressive measures against the Palestinian people living under its occupation.

In a meeting held in Amman to express solidarity with the Palestinian people in their ongoing anti-occupation revolt in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, leaders of professional associations expressed full solidarity with the protests that began on Dec. 8.

Speaking at the solidarity meeting of about 1,200 people who thronged the Professional Associations Complex, after speakers hailed the Palestinian uprising and pledged continued support for the Palestinian brethren in the occupied territories and said Israel's repressive measures to put down the protests proved that Nazism and Zionism were "twins in ideology and practice."

The speakers, representing doctors, engineers, lawyers and women's organisations, appealed to international organisations to intervene and stop Israel's "arbitrary measures to suppress the Arab uprising." According to figures given by some of the speakers, 59 Palestinians, including 13 children and 19 women, have been killed by Israeli soldiers and more than 460 people wounded in Israeli actions to quell the protests. Close to 4,000 people have been arrested, they said.

"The uprising has sparked hope in our souls and lighted our hearts with happiness in the darkness of the prevailing political

conditions in the Arab World," Jordan Bar Association President Hussein Al Mujalli said.

Some other speakers said that the Arab people in the occupied territories "were the only ones who reflected the will of the Arab Nation."

"They are the only one who are fighting and resisting," said Jordan Medical Association President Mamdouh Abbadi. "By this struggle, they represent the silent and absent Arab majority," he said.

Some of the speakers criticised Arab governments for not doing enough to support the people in the occupied territories. "We urge the Arabs to support our people to turn this uprising into a continuous civil disobedience," said Isam Abdul Hadi, head of the General Union of Palestinian Women, who was invited to speak at the gathering by the Jordanian professional associations.

Most of the speakers were sceptical over possibilities for a peaceful settlement to the Palestinian problem. "The Arab-Israeli conflict is one of survival and therefore peaceful negotiations cannot restore the legitimate rights of the Arabs in Palestine," Mr. Mujalli said.

Some other speakers voiced support for armed struggle. "The (Nov. 29) glider attack against an

Israeli military camp was a lesson in real heroism," said Agricultural Engineers Association President Tareq Al Tal.

A central theme in the various speeches was the fact that the ongoing protests in the West Bank and Gaza have drawn wide Arab and international attention to the Palestinian problem. "Our people's uprising reflects the Palestinian national unity and support for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and has placed the Palestinian cause in its natural position as the central Arab cause," said Ms. Abdul Hadi.

The speakers were also very critical of the U.S. for its support of Israel and the Jewish state's policies.

In a related development, the Democratic Unionist Group which includes a number of noted personalities in Jordan, issued a statement on Monday expressing solidarity with the Palestinian uprising. The statement, signed by 21 leading figures, called on the Arabs to support "this blessed uprising, to guarantee its continuation and to transform it into a continuous popular revolution until victory and achieve the goal of realising all the legitimate and national Arab and Palestinian rights by removing the Israeli occupation." The statement described the atrocious measures adopted by the Israelis to suppress the protests as "a challenge to international legitimacy which has been accepted by the PLO and the Arab governments which are seeking a peaceful and just solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict." Signatories to the statement included Dr. Jamal Al Shaer, a former minister, and Dr. Carlos Di'mes, a member of the Lower House of Parliament representing a Bethlehem constituency.

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Ties of success and harmony

HIS MAJESTY'S official visit to the Soviet Union to meet with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and other senior Soviet officials comes at a very critical period in international relations and in the midst of a hybrid of issues and conflicts in the Middle East and the Gulf region.

His Majesty's trip to the Soviet Union marks the continuation of steady and sober development of good relations between Moscow and Amman since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1963. Bilateral relations have witnessed progressive improvement on a wide range of issues and subjects, including purchases of sophisticated Soviet military hardware to strengthen Jordanian defences. In political terms, the meeting of the Soviet and Jordanian minds on the need to convene an international conference on peace in the Middle East has brought the two countries closer in perspective and orientation on the Arab-Israeli conflict. As chairman of the Nov. 8-11 Amman Arab summit, King Hussein would most certainly transmit joint Arab appreciation for Moscow's endorsement of the proposal for an international conference and would press the Soviet government for even more invigorating support for it. Indeed, the Amman summit adopted a unanimous position in support of convening such a conference, the need for which became all the more pressing by the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. But what still needs to be done on the political front is to bridge any gap that may still exist between the Arab position on the Iran-Iraq war as elaborated and articulated in the Amman summit and that of the Soviet Union.

Surely the Gulf conflict will figure highly on the agenda of the Jordanian-Soviet talks with a view to eliminate any remnants of division of thought and assessment on the Gulf situation. What is at stake is still the projected follow-up resolution by the United Nations Security Council to enforce Resolution 598.

On the economic and cultural fronts, Jordanian-Soviet relations have made remarkable leaps forward in the course of the last two and a half decades—and there is scope for improvement in these ties.

In sum, the story of Jordanian-Soviet relations has been but one of success and harmony, blessed with fruitful results and positive consequences on many levels and in numerous fields. We shall await the conclusion of the talks between the Jordanian and Soviet leaders with great anticipation and hopes.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: King carries Arab message

KING Hussein Monday started a state visit to the Soviet Union, a visit which assumes significance by Arab and international standards. The King visits the Soviet Union as chairman of the last Arab summit which achieved consensus and agreement among Arab states. He will therefore, represent not only Jordan but also the rest of the Arab countries in his talks with Soviet leaders on regional issues and subjects of common interest to the Soviet Union and the Arab World. His talks will most certainly cover the Middle East question and Israel's continued occupation of Arab land, and its adamant stand in not recognising the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland and its current escalation of repressive measures against the Arab population and its terrorist actions waged against the civilians under its rule. The King's discussions with Kremlin leaders will also cover the situation in the Gulf region and Iran's intransigent position and its continued aggression on Arab territory in defiance of the will of the international community. Apart from these two issues, the monarch is bound to review with the Soviet leaders other world topics and the question of maintaining and enhancing world peace. Indeed, the Soviet Union has been supporting Arab just causes and Moscow's stand is appreciated by all Arab countries. For Jordan, the Soviet Union is a friend and its relations with the Arab World in general and Jordan in particular have been strengthened over the years in the best interest of the Arab and Soviet peoples.

Al Dustour: Great freedom

PRINCE Hassan's address to a symposium on media graduates contained a valuable set of ideas and directives aimed at tackling the problem of unemployed graduates and also to promote the journalism profession in the Kingdom. Prince Hassan noted that freedom offered to journalism in this country was great compared with other Arab countries, and that the Jordanian constitution guarantees freedom of opinion and freedom of speech and writing. This statement should prompt all journalists to benefit from the offered opportunity, and develop mass communication. Prince Hassan told the meeting that journalism was becoming open to specialisation in its various aspects, and this should open the way for training and research and also the establishment of a research centre in mass communication to promote this profession. For this reason, the seminar which was organised by the Jordanian Journalists Association (JJA) aimed at re-evaluating the journalism profession in the Kingdom with a view to finding more proper and efficient manner for developing the work of journalists in the press, radio and television and reorganising the JJA's performance in all sectors.

Sawt Al Shaab: King visits a great friend

KING Hussein Monday began a visit to the Soviet Union where it is hoped he will bring to the attention of the superpower different aspects of regional issues. The King heads for Moscow at a time when the world nations in general and the Arab World in particular continue to pay tribute to his efforts in his drive to achieve peace and stability to the Middle East. The visit reaffirms the common denominators and the close cooperation between the Soviet Union and the Arab World since the King will be representing the whole Arab Nation in talks with the friends of the Arabs, and the supporters of Arab just causes. Jordan, under King Hussein, finds in the Soviet Union a true friend, backing the Arab Nation's efforts in achieving peace and ending conflicts in this region of the world. The Soviet Union has been calling for a solution to the Middle East problem in a peaceful manner, and through an international conference.

The View from Second Circle

Sorry, no liberty today; have a sewer instead

By Rami G. Khouri

THE RESURGENCE of violent demonstrations and acts of resistance by the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza during the past several weeks has refocused attention on the struggle, on the land of Palestine between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean, between Palestinians and Israelis who both wish to manifest their national identities on the same piece of land.

More depressing than the clashes on the ground, perhaps, is the American government's viewpoint on the recent violence in Palestine, as expressed in testimony before the U.S. House of Representatives Middle East subcommittee last week by the Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, Mr. Richard Murphy. His presentation was of a seemingly balanced position which eschewed violence, valued economic development and looked forward to the day when the Israelis and Palestinians could live together in peace. So much for the illusion.

The reality of the American position, as presented by Mr. Murphy, is, rather, a combination of meaningless diplomatic niceties, political mumbo-jumbo and an intellectual approach to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict so convoluted, strained, inequitable, dishonest and partial that Mr. Murphy gives the appearance of getting ready to run for the presidency of the United States.

His basic point was that the United States has a two track policy: "First, we support a resolution of the status of these territories through direct negotiations between Israel and its Arab neighbours. And second, we want to improve the quality of Palestinian life in the territories." He goes on: "The prevailing atmosphere is one of tension and mutual mistrust," which "produces protest demonstrations by Palestinians, acts of violence by both Palestinians and Israeli settlers, and harsh security measures by Israeli occupation authorities which are sometimes inconsistent with recognised international standards." He concludes by saying: "Ultimately, problems in the West Bank and Gaza cannot be fully resolved in the absence of an agreement to end the occupation in a way that is accepted by the Palestinian inhabitants, by Israelis and by their Arab neighbours. Until then, we will seek ways to improve conditions in the territories."

One is reminded of those who, having lived in Mussolini's Italy, were preoccupied with the question of making the trains run on time as a political imperative of the day. By all means, let us do our share to improve the lives of the Palestinians living under Israeli occupation—but not as a false attempt to compensate for political dishonesty and to assuage shame. The United States is vulgar to point out its "concern" for the Palestinians by noting that it has donated \$18 million or \$28 million to West Bank and Gaza development projects and two or three times that sum to finance UNRWA operations—while it provides Israel with an average of \$3 billion a year, along with countless arms contracts and trade privileges which directly boost the Israeli economy by another several hundred million dollars every year.

If we are sincere—and I suspect that the United States government is quite visibly insincere—we should heed the simple but wise words spoken two years ago by the eminent Palestinian economist Dr. Yusef Sayegh. On the question of how to promote Palestinian economic development under prolonged occupation. He said the logical response to prolonged occupation is perhaps not finding means to improve people's lives, when such approaches are directly and brutally vulnerable to the objections of the occupying power. The antidote to occupation, he noted, is liberation.

Mr. Murphy offends us—and when I say us, I think I speak for the vast majority of Arab people—when he makes a presentation of American policy vis-a-vis the Palestinian uprising and never once uses words such as justice, sovereignty, self-determination, liberty and freedom. We long to hear an American official come out and say forcefully that the Palestinians and the Israelis have the same rights of national self-determination, sovereignty and security; that the Israeli occupation of Palestinian people and land must end simultaneously with an accord for reciprocal political recognition between Israelis and Palestinians; that a military occupation is wrong, and bound only to perpetuate violent resistance.

The facts of the situation are quite simple: The Israelis occupy all of Palestine, and the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza live under direct military occupation. They are not free, and they yearn

to be so; they lack political sovereignty and the array of human and political rights that all subjugated people struggle for. Therefore, they become angry, and every once in a while, on the average of once or twice a year, they erupt in spontaneous acts of resistance. Just like Soweto. Just like Afghanistan. Just like the Boston Tea Party.

It is both ennobling and sad; ennobling, because it lifts the hearts of millions of Palestinians (and of tens of millions of other Arabs) to see Palestinian children standing up to the Israelis with rocks; and sad, because we have reached a state where our identity is more often than not manifested in a public manner by the burning of old car tires. But that's our problem, as we struggle with the dilemma of how to achieve human and political rights in a difficult environment. The problem of the United States is much different.

Mr. Murphy invites laughter and disdain when he says that the United States "condemns violence and extremism in all forms, and from all sides," and "encourages Israel to assure that its occupation practices are consistent with accepted international standards and the legitimate needs of maintaining security."

These are words that are not substantiated by the facts on the ground. The United States' policy to the Arab-Israeli conflict, based on the primary of Israeli security dictates and acquiescence to its political postures, appears rather to reward extremism and to invite violence. How else do we interpret the emergence of the Israeli messianic right in the 1970s and 80s being followed by a string of \$3 billion annual aid packages to Israel, the free trade zone accord, pacts on strategic defence research and cooperation, and other bilateral moves that change the status of the American-Israeli relationship from cooperation to apparent axis and alliance?

The United States, following the Israeli lead, refuses to accept that the Palestinians are entitled to national self-determination; it refuses to deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the internationally recognised Palestinian leadership; it rejects the concept of an independent Palestinian state. Why is it surprised, therefore, that Palestinians, once or twice a year, rise up in angry protest?

And how doubly shocking it is, consequently, to hear a superpower indicate that its official policy is that its surrogate ally should adhere to internationally accepted standards of occupation. Is this the best we can expect from the United States, the country which gave the world the concept of the self-determination of all peoples? The United States comes down on the side of those who would, in the circumstances, adhere to internationally accepted codes of occupation? How pitiful, how sad! It all has become in these closing years of the 1980s.

In South Africa, Afghanistan, the Philippines, Poland, Zimbabwe, South Korea, Haiti and other countries, the United States took a principled and admirable stand on the side of human rights, freedom, dignity and honesty. It recognised the need to end turmoil on the ground through a negotiated, peaceful resolution of existing political inequities or military occupations. But the United States does not feel that the Palestinian people are entitled to the same treatment. Why not? We would like to hear Mr. Murphy explain

this fundamental point.

Why is it that Mr. Murphy does not want to improve the economic conditions of the people of Afghanistan, but rather— and rightly— insists that they should enjoy freedom from military occupation? Why does the United States not condemn extremism and violence in Nicaragua and Afghanistan? Is it perhaps because in those cases it finances, arms and diplomatically supports armed groups actively involved in acts of violence against the political order? Precisely how much arrogance and hypocrisy are Arab governments willing to accept from the United States, before something is done in response?

The Palestinian children in the occupied territories fight back with sticks and stones. The rest of the Arab World watches, and occasionally requests to purchase American arms, or to use American flags, or to rent American surveillance aircraft. The hypocrisy of the Americans is matched by the lassitude and contradictions of the Arabs. The pity and the sadness engulf us all.

The revolutionary patriot Patrick Henry was heralded as an American hero when he uttered his elegant words: "Give me liberty, or give me death." Liberty remains the essential goal of all people, whether Americans, Israelis, Arabs or any other people. Would Mr. Murphy have the Palestinians face the Israeli guns and utter: "Give me a soap factory, a vocational training centre, a cucumber export licence, and compliance with the Geneva conventions, or give me death?"

It sounds stupid, doesn't it? Because it is stupid. So why does the United States expect the Arabs to put up with such stupidity, while the rest of the world adheres to criteria of political legitimacy and moral rights which are of a higher and a universal standard? Is it because, in American official eyes, we are stupid people, somehow less human than the Israelis, somehow less feeling than Afghans, somehow less entitled to freedom than the people of Nicaragua and Grenada?

Liberty is indivisible, as the people of the United States have long recognised, and exhorted the rest of the world. And liberty is simple. One either aspires to liberty, or accepts to live without it until better days come around. In the case of Israeli occupation of Palestine, which is directly financed by massive annual American financial grants, we hear American officials proclaim that the occupation should be juridically punctilious, and that Palestinians should have more jobs, banks and sewerage systems.

We don't hear that Palestinians should enjoy freedom. We don't hear that the credo of Patrick Henry applies to the Palestinians. We don't hear that the Palestinians should have self-determination. We don't hear that the antidote to occupation is liberation.

And that's why we do hear gunshots, and rebellious Palestinian children, and the sounds of Palestinians and Israelis dying, and among it all, far away in Washington, the gruesome and senseless sound of official United States policy that uniquely denies an entire people their right to self-determination and freedom. Therefore, the violence and extremism will continue—for as long as the vision and the words and the ideals of Patrick Henry move the hearts of all people around the world, but are denied to some people.

Why give less than His Excellency?



His Excellency
SCOTCH WHISKY

Israelis shoot dead 3 Arabs

(Continued from page 1)

reporters saw policemen beat several detainees. One Israeli news photographer was beaten by Arab protesters.

At the Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, 18-year-old Raed Shehadeh of the Shati refugee camp died of wounds suffered in a clash with troops Dec. 10.

In a separate clash at the Dheisheh refugee camp near Bethlehem, two protesters were wounded by army gunfire and one was overcome by tear-gas, a Palestinian reporter said.

Army officials imposed a curfew on the West Bank town of Tulkarem. Military authorities also closed the Islamic University in Hebron for a month to avoid protests in the area, the spokesman said.

Nearly all Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and Arabs in the Golan Heights joined in the stay-at-home strike Monday.

Palestinian reports said schools closed and transport at a halt in the occupied territories with workers staying away from jobs.

Near the village of Umm Al Fahm, police tried to disperse some 3,000 protesters who gathered on a major highway leading from Tel Aviv to the northern town of Afula.

In Jaffa, Arab stone-throwers pelted cars in a rare outburst of violence, and police made 17 arrests. An officer was injured.

Tewfik Toubi, an Israeli Arab member of parliament, said: "We are part and parcel of the Palestinian people, and at the same time we are citizens of the state of Israel, and as such we raise our voice against the continued occupation."

Police said they sent more than 2,000 policemen into the Jerusalem area and into northern Israel, home to 65 per cent of all Israeli Arabs.

Israeli forces used tear-gas in Arab Jerusalem where officials said the worst protests in 20 years of Israeli occupation took place over the weekend.

Most Arab shops closed

throughout Israel, and officials said there appeared to be a total commercial strike in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The army closed all West Bank schools for two days to prevent demonstrations.

Nazareth Mayor Tewfik Zayad called Monday's strike "a condemnation of the continued massacre in the occupied territories and a sign of full solidarity with the struggle of our people."

Mr. Zayad said Arabs were angered by the suggestion of a Likud parliament member, Chaim Kaufman, to return military rule to Arab sections of northern Israel.

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U.N. General Assembly adopts Jordan-introduced resolution on a New International Humanitarian Order

On Dec. 9, 1987 and during the forty-second session of the United Nations General Assembly, Jordan, together with 40 other member states presented a proposal for a resolution on a New International Humanitarian Order. Also on Dec. 9, the Soviet Union presented another resolution supporting Jordan's proposed resolution. Both resolutions were adopted without a vote by the General Assembly. Following is the text of the first resolution introduced by Jordan (Resolution introduced by Jordan and co-sponsored by Algeria, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Egypt, France, Greece, Indonesia, Iraq, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, the Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, the United Arab Emirates, the United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen and Yugoslavia).

The General Assembly

Recalling its resolutions 36/136 of 14 December 1981, 37/201 of 18 December 1982, 38/125 of 16 December 1983 and 40/126 of 13 December 1985.

Recalling further the reports of the Secretary-General, bearing in mind the comments communicated by Governments to the Secretary-General regarding a new international humanitarian order.

Recognising the urgent need further to improve and strengthen the international framework relating to humanitarian issues, while taking fully into account existing instruments and mechanisms.

Noting with concern that emergencies and disasters, mostly man-made, have increased in frequency in recent years, posing a growing challenge to mechanisms of international responses to them.

Aware that institutional arrangements and actions of governmental and non-governmental bodies require further invigoration as well as adjustment to new realities in order to respond more effectively and speedily to contemporary humanitarian problems.

Noting the efforts of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues to promote public awareness of humanitarian issues, analyse relatively neglected aspects and identify alternative approaches for resolving humanitarian problems.

Noting further the establishment, outside the United Nations, of an Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues to disseminate and follow up on the work of the Independent Commission.

Taking note of the report of the Independent Commission, as well as the sectoral reports on specific humanitarian issues:

1. Expresses its appreciation to the co-chairmen and members of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues for their humanitarian endeavours;
2. Draws the attention of Governments as well as intergovernmental organisations, including those functioning at the regional level, to the report of the Independent Commission;
3. Requests the Independent Commission to transmit its report to Member States as well as to the executive heads of specialised agencies and programmes of the United Nations system in order to enable them to consider its analyses and conclusions;
4. Invites all non-governmental organisations concerned with the humanitarian issues examined by the Independent Commission to bear in mind the recommendations and suggestions made in its report in the context of their policies and actions in the field;
5. Invites Governments to make available to the Secretary-General, on a voluntary basis, information and expertise on humanitarian issues of concern to them, in order to identify opportunities for future action and to strengthen international cooperation in the humanitarian field;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to remain in contact with Governments, relevant specialised agencies and programmes of the United Nations system, non-governmental organisations concerned as well as the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues and to report, on the basis of information made available to him, on the progress made in the humanitarian field to the General Assembly at its forty-third session;

7. Decides to review at its forty-third session the question of a new international humanitarian order.

Following is the text of the second resolution introduced by the Soviet Union

International cooperation in the humanitarian field

The General Assembly,

Noting that the United Nations under its Charter has to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of a humanitarian character,

Guided in particular by the commitment in the Charter to reaffirm faith in the dignity and worth of the human person.

Mindful of the significant contribution to international cooperation in the humanitarian field made by organisations and agencies of the United Nations system,

Recognising the positive role played by the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues,

Recognising, in this connection, the importance of the contribution of governmental and non-governmental organisations, including the contribution of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Recognising the significance of the existing workable system to promote, facilitate and coordinate humanitarian activities carried out by Governments, the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations,

Mindful of the importance of promoting universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and of international cooperation in the humanitarian field for improving relations among States and peoples.

Stressing the need for the international community to continue its efforts in the field of humanitarian activities and to provide the resources to develop further activities in the humanitarian field,

Conscious that people want to live in a better, safer and more just world.

1. Encourages the international community to develop further its cooperation in the field of international humanitarian activities;
2. Calls upon all States to cooperate for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and to work together to promote international cooperation in order to solve existing humanitarian problems of international concern;
3. Encourages the international community to contribute substantially and regularly to international humanitarian activities;
4. Considers that international cooperation in the humanitarian field will facilitate better understanding, mutual respect, confidence and tolerance among States and peoples, thus contributing to a more just and non-violent world;
5. Invites Governments, the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations to develop international cooperation in the humanitarian field on the basis of relevant international instruments;
6. Decides to consider the question of international cooperation in the humanitarian field under the item entitled "New international humanitarian order."

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Hungary reportedly to attend Seoul Olympics

Japan fears North Korean sabotage at games

BUDAPEST (R) — Hungary announced on Monday it would participate in the 1988 Summer Olympic Games in Seoul, the first Soviet Bloc ally to confirm it would take part.

The official MTI news agency reported that the Hungarian national Olympic committee had unanimously agreed to participate in the games.

MTI said the Hungarian team would consist of 210 active sportsmen and about 90 officials.

The participation of Soviet Bloc countries had been in doubt because of North Korea's insistence that it share the staging of the games with Seoul.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC), based in Switzerland, later confirmed that Hungary had notified it of its decision to take part.

Hungary took part in a Soviet-led boycott of the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles which was a retaliation for a U.S.-led boycott of the 1980 Moscow Olympics following the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

A dispute between South and North Korea over how many Olympic events should be hosted by Pyongyang has forced Soviet Bloc countries, including China and the Soviet Union, to delay

accepting the invitations to the games.

The IOC deadline for accepting the invitations is January 17.

The IOC has been mediating between North and South Korea over the North's demands to stage some of the events.

In Tokyo Japanese security authorities believe North Korea is likely to commit acts of sabotage aimed at damaging the prestige of next year's Seoul Olympics, according to an official report published on Sunday.

The report issued by the Public Security Investigation Agency said it was possible North Korea would take such action as part of an effort to undermine the government of South Korean President-elect Roh Tae Woo.

On Saturday, South Korea said a North Korean agent probably planted a bomb on a Korean Air Lines (KAL) Boeing 707 which went missing near Burma last month with 115 people aboard. It said a mid-air explosion destroyed the plane.

An East Asian woman was

extradited to Seoul from Bahrain on suspicion of planting a bomb on aircraft, which was on a flight from Baghdad to Seoul.

The Sankei Shimbun newspaper quoted senior agency officials as telling Japanese reporters in a background briefing on Monday there was a strong chance that Pyongyang would boycott the Olympics if its hopes to co-host the games were dashed because of its economic situation.

North Korea is demanding the role of co-host of the Summer Games but a series of talks with the South to decide how many sports events would be held in North have ended in deadlock.

The newspaper quoted the officials as saying construction of sports facilities in Pyongyang was apparently targeted for the 13th World Youth and Student Festival scheduled for 1989, and the building programme was slowing economic progress.

It also said that because of the country's gloomy economic prospects, there was little chance North Korean President Kim Il-Sung would handover power to his son, Jong-Il, during the next year.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Egypt, Angola unbeaten in African tourney

TUNIS (R) — Hot favourite Angola has kept up their winning streak in the African Men's Basketball Championships, beating Tunisia 69-60 (half-time 40-31). Egypt, with three wins since the tournament began on Thursday, and the Central African Republic are also unbeaten. Egypt beat Ivory Coast 71-66 (half-time 28-30) on Sunday and the Central African Republic defeated Senegal 71-57 (half-time 34-33). Nine teams are taking part in the championships, a qualifying tournament for the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

Colts move to 1st play off berth

NEW YORK (AP) — The Indianapolis Colts moved closer to their first playoff berth in a decade Sunday, and the Denver Broncos clinched a playoff spot even though they didn't play. The Colts clinched their first winning season in a decade with a 20-7 victory over San Diego and are tied with Miami for the AFC East lead at 8-6 heading into the final week of the season. Miami, which kept its playoff hopes alive with a 23-21 victory over Washington Sunday night, can only win the division if they beat New England next Monday night and the Colts lose to the Bucs. If the Dolphins and Colts both win, Miami will gain a wild card if Pittsburgh, Houston and San Diego lose their final games. Miami's victory over Washington knocked out the Buffalo Bills, who lost 13-7 to New England. The Patriots are still in the running for a playoff slot. The other, 5th Graf Sports — U.S. football roundup.

Canadians abandon quest for the peak

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP) — A Canadian team has abandoned its effort to climb Annapurna I, but a Japanese group was still trying to conquer the world's ninth-tallest peak from a different route, the tourism ministry said Monday. Quoting reports received Monday from the 8,091-metre (26,538-foot) mountain, the ministry said a nine-member Canadian team led by Stephen Adamson, abandoned its effort last Tuesday because of heavy snowfall.

Champagne for Napoli, Spanish giants humbled

ROME (R) — Champagne and Christmas cake were on offer in the Napoli dressing room on Sunday when the Italian champions celebrated a 4-1 win over Verona and their continuing First Division leadership.

But for Spanish giants Real Madrid, Atletico Madrid and Barcelona the final full European soccer programme of 1987 ended on a flat note as they all suffered unexpected defeats.

Leaders Real Madrid conceded two goals in the opening 12 minutes at Seville as they were beaten 2-1 by Real Betis. Atletico lost 1-0 at home to Seville and Barcelona crashed 4-2 at home to Real Valladolid.

Veteran midfielder Hipolito Rincon created Betis' goals for Jose Melenas and Quico Ruiz. The Madrilenos, sorely missing Miguel Tendillo, scrambled a goal from defender Manuel Sanchez a minute from time, but could not avoid their second defeat of the season.

Cesar Luis Menotti, Atletico's Argentine coach, was furious at his team's failure to take advantage of their rivals' downfall. "It is a step backwards," he said. "There was nervousness, precision and confusion."

Atletico were without Portuguese striker Paulo Futre as they went down to a 35th minute strike by Raimon Vazquez. Real Sociedad moved up to second with a 2-1 win at Real Murcia.

Barcelona's foreigners — West German Bernd Schuster, with a penalty, and England's Gary Lineker — put them 2-1 ahead against Valladolid, but Barcelona had no answer to Manuel Pena who grabbed a hat-trick after Manuel Hierro had opened the scoring.

Schuster, whose contract expires in June 1988, has been linked with a possible move to Real Madrid, Roma or Juventus.

Roma were the only winners. They beat Pescara 5-1 but remain fourth behind Napoli, Milan and

Sampdoria. Napoli's win featured Bruno Giordano scoring the 2,000th goal of the club's 61-year history — an honour which would have been Diego Maradona's had his 80th minute penalty not been saved.

Salvatore Bagni, Giordano and Maradona all scored earlier to put Napoli in command against a Verona team lacking seven key players through injury and suspensions.

Roma — with Franco Tancredi back in goal after being struck by fireworks the previous week — overwhelmed Pescara with goals from Massimo Agostino (two), Giuseppe Giannini, Roberto Policiano and a Romano Galvani own goal.

Juventus, with Welshman Ian Rush showing some of his best form in the absence of Danish striker Michael Laudrup, drew 1-1 with Sampdoria. Antonio Cabrini and Pietro Vierchowod scored.

Celtics cling to NBA Atlantic Division

NEW YORK (AP) — The Boston Celtics, who have struggled lately, are not quite ready to relinquish control of the NBA's Atlantic Division.

They emphatically made that point Sunday night with a 124-87 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers, who would have taken a percentage-points lead in the division with a victory at Boston Garden. The Celtics, who are 8-8 since starting the season 6-0, have

won the division four consecutive seasons.

A late flurry by the 76ers after they trailed 116-67 did not prevent them from suffering their worst regular-season defeat ever against the Celtics. The 37-point defeat surpassed the previous biggest margin of 34 on Nov. 29, 1983.

In other NBA games, it was Cleveland 127, Indiana 116; Portland 148, San Antonio 126;

Phoenix 120, Sacramento 109, and the Los Angeles Lakers 103, Seattle 94.

Charles Barkley scored 18 points and had just two rebounds while playing just 25 minutes for Philadelphia.

"It was a good win for them, but I doubt they are jumping around," Barkley said. "What am I going to do, kill myself? It's just one game."

Dynamic veteran Kasparov outsmarts master of willpower Karpov

SEVILLE, Spain (AP) — Garri Kasparov is a media-conscious and outspoken showman of the chess world, enthusiastically backing glasnost in the Soviet Union and appearing on western television to promote chess and soda pop.

In his autobiography he advocates freedom of expression and accuses Soviet sports officials of "dirty tricks" intended to block his path.

Kasparov, now 24, became the youngest chess champion in history when he defeated fellow Soviet Anatoli Karpov in November 1985.

Once described by American grandmaster Tony Miles as "a monster with 27 eyes who sees everything," Kasparov appeared tired and off-form in the championship in Seville.

But in February he played a glitzy television speed match with Britain's Nigel Short on a moving stage against a background of strobe lights.

In October, Kasparov became the first Soviet to star in a western television commercial for Schweppes tonic water, a comical 20-second spot that aired throughout Spain.

A more serious approach was

dropped, Schweppes market director for Spain John de Zulueta said. "When we saw that Garri had such an effervescent personality."

The deal was struck by Kasparov's British manager, a former 42-year-old racing driver, Andrew Page.

Kasparov's showmanship also comes through at the board.

In his second tussle with Karpov in 1985, he flouted convention by publicly revealing sealed moves — an act of bravado that delighted the Moscow crowd.

Insiders remain skeptical, however, of Kasparov's suggestion that an aide had passed information to Karpov's team during their third title bout split last year between London and Leningrad. Kasparov won the second tussle 13-11, the third 12.5-11.5.

An advocate of Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev's espousal of glasnost, or openness on some issues, Kasparov wants radical changes for Soviet society.

"What is happening in our country is not just economic reform, but a restructuring of human thinking," he wrote in his autobiography. "child of change."

"Not everyone can achieve that, but those who can, must," he wrote.

In the book, Kasparov details his battles with the Soviet sports establishment and archenemy Florencio Campomanes of the Philippines, the president of the World Chess Federation (WCF).

Kasparov bitterly criticized both for allegedly favouring Karpov.

The war of words between Kasparov and Campomanes exploded when Campomanes halted the first Karpov-Kasparov contest, "without result," but leaving Karpov champion.

Although still trailing after a marathon 48 games, Kasparov had just scored two consecutive victories.

At a stormy news conference Feb. 15, 1985, which he calls "the most significant day in my life," Kasparov spoke publicly against the decision.

In the book, Kasparov says Alexander Yakovlev, Soviet propaganda chief and one of Gorbachev's closest advisers, intervened to save him from punishment.

"There could be no more dirty tricks. He (Yakovlev) prevented them from attacking me," he wrote.

Kasparov says the "chess mafia" around Karpov is similar to "the bureaucracy that flourished at the end of (former Soviet leader Leonid) Brezhnev's time."

He sees his battle with Karpov as a symbol of the wider struggle within Soviet society.

Kasparov even says Brezhnev's



The two champs in action

death led "to good things for me and my country."

It was Kasparov's raw talent that first made him a name in chess circles.

"In the hands of this young man lies the future of chess," wrote former world champion Mikhail Botvinnik when his pupil Kasparov was just 11.

Born Garri Kimovich Weinstein on April 13, 1963 in Baku, capital of the Soviet republic of Azerbaijan, Kasparov learned chess at the age of five by watching his parents solving chess problems.

He joined Botvinnik's correspondence course, set up to foster the cream of young Soviet talent and now jointly run by Kasparov himself.

Kasparov's father, a Jewish engineer, died when Kasparov was seven. At 12, his name was changed to Kasparian, a Russian form of Kasparian, his Armenian mother's maiden name.

By 16, Kasparov was an inter-

national master. A year later he was a grandmaster and world junior champion and by 1981, Soviet national champion.

With dazzling victories, he swept past all opposition to challenge Karpov.

A Communist Party member since he was 19, Kasparov received early backing from Geidar A. Aliev, the former 1980 Olympic champion in judo, who left the Politburo in 1981 in an apparent fall from power.

Kasparov speaks excellent English and is fascinated by computers and their potential. He also enjoys soccer, jogging, music and watching videos.

Until they parted last year, his relationship with Marina Neolova, a well-known Soviet actress, was widely discussed in Moscow.

ANATOLI KARPOV displays icy determination and technical artistry at the chessboard, with a creeping style that has been compared to a boa constrictor slowly squeezing his opponents into submission.

Leonix Garcia, a Spanish chess commentator, has likened Karpov's relentless pursuit of small advantages to "a spider weaving a fatal web."

The 36-year-old Muscovite challenger held the world chess crown for 10 years until he lost to Garri Kasparov in 1985.

The longest reigning chess champion was Emmanuel Lasker of Germany, who held the title for 27 years until 1921.

Karpov's championship career has been dominated by two bitter personal and professional battles, first with Victor Korchnoi, a Soviet defector who now lives in Switzerland, and then with the flashy, outspoken 24-year-old Kasparov.

Karpov scored a record number of tournament victories during his reign as world champion until 1985 and was awarded the annual chess award an unprecedented nine times.

During those years, Karpov gained close connections with Communist Party leaders who were influential under former

Soviet leader Leonid I. Brezhnev.

In his autobiography, "Child of Change," Kasparov accuses Karpov of having ruled, "like a Czar of chess."

Karpov, he said, "resisted, by fair means and foul, any bid to usurp his throne. He associated himself with conservative forces in an alliance designed to maintain power for himself and for those who clung to his coat-tails."

Karpov told the British news-weekly Spectator the book was "all lies."

Born Anatoli Evgenyevich Karpov in Zlatoust in the Chelyabinsk region of the Soviet Union, Karpov learned chess at the age of 4 1/2 and enrolled in the chess school of former world champion Mikhail Botvinnik in 1963.

"His first reaction to me was that I had no future...seven years later I was the new star in chess," Karpov told the Dutch magazine New in Chess, referring to Botvinnik.

In 1969, Karpov won the world junior title in Stockholm, gaining the title of international master. A year later while studying economics at Leningrad University, he became a grandmaster.

A victory in the 1973 Interzonal Tournament opened his way towards the title and in 1975, when the temperamental American star Bobby Fischer refused to defend his throne, Karpov was crowned champion.

Karpov successfully defended his title twice against Korchnoi in Baguio City, Philippines in 1978, and in Merano, Italy in 1981.

After the second victory, Karpov sent a telegram to Brezhnev, declaring: "my work is completed."

In September 1984, he faced Kasparov. The winner required six victories — draws not counting.

Karpov established a 5-0 lead, but after a marathon series of draws through the long Moscow winter, Kasparov fought back to

5-1 and then pulled to 5-3 with two consecutive victories.

The match, already a record-shattering 48 games long, was abruptly halted "without result" at a stormy Feb. 15, 1985. Moscow news conference by World Chess Federation (WCF) President Florencio Campomanes of the Philippines — a move that was to damage Karpov's reputation.

Kasparov charged at the time and later in interviews in the west that Campomanes had intervened to "save his friend Karpov."

Boris Spassky, a former world champion, renamed the pair "Karpomanes."

Karpov and Campomanes have repeatedly denied the claims. Campomanes said he halted play because both players were exhausted.

Karpov remained world champion, but in a 24-game rematch starting at 0-0 six months later Kasparov seized the title 13-11.

In a revenge match split between London and Leningrad in 1986, Kasparov kept his title 12.5-11.5. Karpov fought back from a seemingly hopeless situation with three victories in a row from games 17 to 19.

This spring, Karpov crushed fellow Soviet Andrei Sokolov 7.5-3.5 in Linares, 150 miles (240 km) north of Seville, to win the right to challenge Kasparov.

Kasparov is chairman of the Soviet Peace Fund and a member of the Central Committee of the Young Communist League.

Karpov has a 7-year-old son also called Anatoli, from his first marriage.

According to "the complete chess addict," Karpov once described his hobbies as "stamp collecting and Marxism."

But observers have remarked in the last two years that Karpov seems increasingly open and relaxed. He even commented on the Seville match for the American newspaper, USA Today.

His marriage this summer to striking 24-year-old librarian from Moscow was, according to Spanish international master Ricardo Calvo, "his first move in the championship match."

Karpov swims and plays tennis to keep fit, speaks excellent English and enjoys reading Agatha Christie mystery novels.

Karpov is also fond of snooker, a variation of pool popular in Europe, and is on good terms with Britain's Steve Davis, the world snooker champion.

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Rome to push for new lira

ROME (R) — Italy hopes to cut its currency down to size next year and to banish some of the multiple noughts which mean that an average salary is around one million lira (\$833) a month.

Treasury Minister Giuliano Amato said that in 1988 the government would try once again to bring in a new lira worth 1,000 times more than the existing currency.

He said on Italian radio that he hoped economic conditions would be right for the move.

The government approved draft laws for the new lira last year, hoping to boost the Italian economy as well as the currency's image.

The draft expired before reaching parliament because the legislature was dissolved early and national elections were called because of a long-running political crisis.

The lira's multiple noughts are a headache for accountants, frequently over-running the capacity of calculators.

Prime Minister Giovanni Goria was one of the key backers of the new lira last time it was proposed. He was treasury minister at the time.

Greek parliament approves budget

ATHENS (AP) — Parliament has approved the Socialist government's 1988 budget, which calls for increased spending on welfare while posting a record deficit.

The 300-member chamber passed the budget by 157 to 122 votes with 15 abstentions and six deputies absent.

The 3.4-trillion drachma (\$26.1 billion) budget provides a 42.8 per cent hike in health and welfare spending to cover expanded state medical services and boost pensions.

But Premier Andreas Papandreu told the chamber that the 957-billion drachma (\$7.4 million) deficit forecast for 1988 will not cause a higher foreign debt.

Mr. Papandreu said that increased foreign exchange inflows would enable the government to hold the foreign debt at its current \$16.5 billion level.

The premier also warned that the government would keep a tight check on spending next year, although its two-year austerity programme ends on Dec. 31.

"Our policy aims at increasing workers' real incomes next year through logical raises respecting their efforts," Mr. Papandreu said.

The average Greek worker's income has declined by 12 per cent in real terms since 1985 because of a near-freeze on wages in both public and private sectors.

The austerity programme has reduced Greece's current account deficit from a record \$3.3 billion in 1985 to a predicted \$1.2 billion this year.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.8325/35	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3070/80	Canadian dollar
	1.6285/95	Deutsche marks
	1.8326/36	Dutch guilders
	1.3223/33	Swiss francs
	34.03/06	Belgian francs
	5.5090/5115	French francs
	1197/1198	Italian lire
	126.67/77	Japanese yen
	5.9250/9300	Swedish crowns
	6.3700/50	Norwegian crowns
	6.2700/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	480.75/481.25	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Shares were steady at just below their best levels on the day, but dealers said trading remained thin ahead of the long Christmas holiday period.

Wall Street moved ahead after a mixed to lower opening, but dealers said they did not expect the London market to gain any fresh momentum. Earlier, the market's advance had been largely attributed to New York's 50-point gain on Friday amid hopes the U.S. Congress will agree the recent budget-cutting plan.

At 1530 GMT the FTSE 100 index stood 34.7 points higher at 1,751.7, after a high on the day of 1,755.4 reached at 1221 GMT and a low of 1,730.8 just after the opening.

Dealers said there are also hopes that the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialised countries will follow the U.S. budget cutting measures with a reaffirmation of their commitment to keep world currencies stable.

One dealer commented: "The FTSE's 1750 points is quite a significant level. If we can go through this, you could see 2000 in the early part of next year, but nobody is making too many long-term predictions at the moment."

THE Daily Crossword by Florence C. Adler

ACROSS

- 1 Strikerear
- 2 Playwright Edward
- 3 Virginia
- 4 Padigree
- 5 Headress of royalty
- 6 Redcut
- 7 Site
- 8 Immigrant island
- 9 Epic
- 10 Hester's mark
- 11 Tess' creator
- 12 Auricle
- 13 Scorchas
- 14 Capture again
- 15 Honest
- 16 Treaty
- 17 Of noble birth
- 18 Br. composer
- 19 Plintail duck
- 20 Hair
- 21 E. ind. sailor
- 22 Kind of orange
- 23 Grande
- 24 Bone cavities
- 25 Cowardly
- 26 Melville work
- 27 Stranger
- 28 High: prel.
- 29 Mechu Pichu land
- 30 Snooped
- 31 Edible fish
- 32 Woolly creatures
- 33 Altire
- 34 Love god

DOWN

- 1 Cul
- 2 Aboul
- 3 Land
- 4 (litter)
- 5 Suit to
- 6 Air
- 7 Formal dance
- 8 Penn. port
- 9 Church
- 10 Isstival
- 11 Renegade
- 12 Heb. month
- 13 Schedule
- 14 Letters
- 15 Substance
- 16 Korean city
- 17 Mindanao
- 18 Despicabls people
- 19 Stupid person
- 20 Swiss mountains
- 21 Weight unit
- 22 Anthony or Barbara
- 23 Ganesha's name
- 24 Gaucha's weapon
- 25 Work unit
- 26 Eng. river
- 27 Pearly
- 28 Path
- 29 Legume
- 30 Great paladin
- 31 Fuel meas.
- 32 Interweave
- 33 Back: prel.
- 34 So long
- 35 Time past
- 36 Swan genus
- 37 Sage
- 38 Silencers
- 39 Remnants
- 40 Unclose to
- 41 pools
- 42 Hideaway

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

DOWN	1 Cul	2 Aboul	3 Land	4 (litter)	5 Suit to	6 Air	7 Formal dance	8 Penn. port	9 Church	10 Isstival	11 Renegade	12 Heb. month	13 Schedule	14 Letters	15 Substance	16 Korean city	17 Mindanao	18 Despicabls people	19 Stupid person	20 Swiss mountains	21 Weight unit	22 Anthony or Barbara	23 Ganesha's name	24 Gaucha's weapon	25 Work unit	26 Eng. river	27 Pearly	28 Path	29 Legume	30 Great paladin	31 Fuel meas.	32 Interweave	33 Back: prel.	34 So long	35 Time past	36 Swan genus	37 Sage	38 Silencers	39 Remnants	40 Unclose to	41 pools	42 Hideaway
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Horoscope not received

OPEC calls for integrated Arab energy data system

KUWAIT (OPECNA) — The Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has called for greater joint Arab efforts to create an integrated data system for the Arab and oil and petrochemical industries.

An editorial in the current OPEC Bulletin says such a system would be invaluable in compiling studies and reports leading to increased Arab cooperation, particularly petroleum and petrochemical product trade.

The scarcity of information sources in the Arab World and the shortage of channels for the exchange of petroleum information between Arab countries make it imperative for the Arab countries to develop an advanced data system to avoid reliance on foreign sources, it notes.

The editorial adds that "such sources are usually selective in the data they supply and exercise a bias against exporting countries in the trend analysis they make."

The Bulletin discloses that OPEC is embarking on the creation of a data bank which will provide means of ensuring the accuracy of basic data, facilitate its retrieval and increase its application and use.

The OPEC secretariat is gathering information on petroleum and other energy resources in member countries and other Arab states in cooperation with national institutions and international organisations.

The ultimate success of the project would depend on the cooperation of OPEC member countries in supplying the required data, concludes the editorial.

Adana said the project would create jobs mainly in the technical and agricultural fields.

It would also help to develop the southeast, scene of a Kurdish rebel insurgency which has claimed more than 800 lives since mid-1984.

Prime Minister Turgut Ozal gave assurances in Damascus in July on the amounts of water Syria would receive from the Euphrates when the dam was built. Syria had sought guarantees that water flows across the border would not be affected.

A study prepared by Cukurova University in the southern city of

ANKARA (R) — A project to irrigate large swathes of south-eastern Turkey and generate electricity will provide up to 1.6 million jobs when completed in the early 1990s, a university study said.

The great Anatolian project, based on the Ataturk Dam across the Euphrates river, will irrigate areas north of the Syrian border and provide up to a fifth of Turkey's electricity needs.

Writing in the Journal Science, Dr. Thurow said there is no single reason for a steady erosion of America's position in the industrial world, but that there are a variety of flaws that work together to damage the U.S. economic picture.

Among the problem cited by Dr. Thurow:

- Service productivity: U.S. service productivity increased at the level of three per cent in the 1950s and 1960s. But it now usually is less than one per cent while the rest of the world's service productivity is increasing by about four times that rate.

- Manufacturing productivity: The U.S. growth rate from 1979 to 1985 averaged 3.1 per cent per year. This is slower than the major European countries and

was far behind the 5.7 per cent rate experienced by Japan.

Product quality: "The United States definitely lags," said Dr. Thurow. In manufacturing robots, for example, he said Japanese machines are five times more accurate than those produced in the U.S. The failure rates of some American air conditioners is 500 to 1,000 times greater than Japanese products.

"The average U.S. manufacturer suffered 70 defects as many assembly-line defects and made 17 times as many service calls in the first year of services as others," he writes. Also, U.S. nuclear reactors average 5.5 emergency shutdowns annually, compared with only 0.3 for the average Japanese reactor.

Manufacturing innovation: "When it comes to process technologies, Americans are slow to invent and slow to adopt," writes Dr. Thurow. For example, he said U.S. manufacturers use less than one-third as many robots as Japan and have fewer robots per worker than Sweden, Germany or Belgium. In steel technology, Japan far surpasses U.S. companies.

Even in low-technology innovations, he said, Americans lag.

Turkey to provide 1.6m jobs

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U.S. manufacturing system suffering variety of ills

WASHINGTON (AP) — "Made in the USA" now often means poor productivity, low quality, high cost and resistance to innovation, according to a study by an MIT management expert.

Mr. Lester C. Thurow, dean of the School of Management at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said in an article that the United States lags behind Japan and other countries in productivity, product quality and manufacturing innovation.

Writing in the Journal Science, Dr. Thurow said there is no single reason for a steady erosion of America's position in the industrial world, but that there are a variety of flaws that work together to damage the U.S. economic picture.

Texan bank to quit Bahrain

BAHRAIN (R) — The U.S. bank First Republicbank Dallas N.A. said on Monday it will close its representative office in Bahrain at the end of the month.

A statement said the bank, formed in June by the merger of Interfirst Corp and Republicbank Corp., is reorganising to concentrate activities on Texas and the southwestern United States.

The monetary agency has approved the closure of the office, which Interfirst set up in 1979.

Britain's Midland Bank said last month it had decided to shut its offshore banking unit in Bahrain.

Giant firm plans to close 100 factories

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — At least 100 factories will be closed in connection with the merger of Swedish ASEA A.B. and Swiss BBC-Brown Boveri and Co., the designated head of the giant electrical engineering company said in an interview Sunday.

Mr. Percy Barnevik, ASEA's president, said the merger will be completed by Jan. 1 as planned and strengthen ASEA and Brown Boveri, Sweden's national owns agency it reported.

"It will lower our costs, enable us to invest more in research and improve our distribution ... but I do not want to pretend that the merger will be completed without pains," it quoted Mr. Barnevik as saying.

Seoul to cut more tariffs

SEOUL (R) — South Korea plans tariff cuts next month on more than 190 products from the United States, Europe and other countries to help slash its mounting trade surplus and head off trade friction, government officials said on Monday.

Finance Ministry officials said tariffs would be lowered by an average of 23.6 per cent on 194 products including cars, cigarettes and films. Monday's announcement brings to 480 the number of product categories for which Seoul has slashed tariffs this year at the request of the United States or with the aim of helping boost imports from its other trading partners.

According to South Korean figures, the country's trade surplus with the United States came to \$7.5 billion in 1986 and is expected to top \$9 billion this year. This export bonanza has made Seoul a prime target for U.S. protectionist sentiment.

Washington is stepping up pressure on South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore to end what it calls unfair trade practices and to help cut the growing American trade deficit.

Even in low-technology innovations, he said, Americans lag.

Product quality: "The United States definitely lags," said Dr. Thurow. In manufacturing robots, for example, he said Japanese machines are five times more accurate than those produced in the U.S. The failure rates of some American air conditioners is 500 to 1,000 times greater than Japanese products.

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Amman Financial Market hits trading value record

By Alisha ir Lyon

AMMAN (R) — Jordan's stock exchange, insulated from shocks in world financial markets, has hit an all-time high in the value of shares traded, officials said on Monday.

The value so far this year edged past the 1983 record of 141.43 million dinars (\$425 million) to 141.49 million on Sunday, said Mr. Ibrahim Bilbeisi, the Amman Financial Market's assistant manager.

"We are very glad we did it. Government procedures helped, so did the central bank," Mr. Bilbeisi told Reuters.

Business has been brisk as the year-end approaches, with up to 400 investors a day crowding the trading floor in a pyramid-shaped office block in the elegant Shmeisani district.

General Manager Hashem Sahbagh said the exchange was sheltered from chilly winds blowing through world equities markets but would not be immune from any global recession.

"If we had more international investors we might have been affected," he said of the Wall Street crash. "What happened on Oct. 19 was psychological, not a sign of depression."

"It should encourage international investors to come to markets in developing countries like Jordan where investment prospects are good."

Dr. Sahbagh, said prices on the Amman Financial Market, soon to celebrate its 10th birthday, were very stable.

"When you are small, you may not have a deep market but you can control it better. Diversified

markets and instruments are not always an advantage," he noted. Under house rules, the market's management can halt trading in any shares whose value swings by more than 10 per cent in a day. "This cools things down," Dr. Sahbagh said.

In 1978, its first year, the Amman Financial Market had 57 listed companies and nine brokers and traded 5.5 million dinars (\$16.5 million) worth of shares. Five years later it had 126 listed companies and 27 brokers. But then Jordan's boom decade, fuelled by money pouring back from migrants to the oil-rich Gulf, was over.

From 1984 to 1986, the value of shares traded averaged only 65 million dinars (\$195 million) as a recession hit.

Mr. Bilbeisi said government incentives to local industry and to Jordanian and other Arab investors, as well as lower interest rates set in 1986, helped produce this year's recovery.

Profits on shares are exempt from tax, cash dividends average five to seven per cent of share prices and the average price-earnings ratio is one to ten or 12. Dr. Sahbagh said.

Mr. Bilbeisi said the Amman Financial Market was the most active of the six stock exchanges in the Arab World and had taken care to avoid a financial crash like that which shook Kuwait in 1982.

Bank of France staff continue strike

PARIS (R) — Trade union leaders called on striking Bank of France workers to suspend their three-week protest for 24 hours and consider their next move after the breakdown on Monday of talks with management.

Officials at the central bank said no progress had been made during the talks on disputes about staffing, wages, pension funds and working conditions.

No date has been set for a resumption of negotiations.

A trade union spokesman said union officials would report to the strikers on the deadlock and study new forms of protest.

About 3,000 workers who had been occupying the bank's Paris

headquarters since Dec. 1 left the building on Saturday, following a management pledge that no disciplinary measures would be taken against them.

Bank of France Governor Jacques De Larosiere told a television interviewer: "Yesterday and the day before there were two long negotiating sessions under the guidance of the court mediator, which perfectly clarified the positions of the two sides, and now we have to get back to work."

The bank said in a statement that, despite the breakdown in negotiations, it would bring into force its latest proposals for 1988 including a plan not to replace

staff who retired.

Strikers are opposed to a management plan to cut 850 jobs from the 17,000-strong staff in 1988, mainly through retirement.

The stoppage has severely disrupted the functioning of the bank, although essential operations on money markets have been maintained.

The centralised computer system has had to be switched off, cheque clearance has been brought to a standstill and fears have been raised that there will be a shortage of new bank notes in automatic cash dispensers amid the pre-Christmas shopping spree.

The president also announced that during the fifth national development plan the government would provide an additional sum of about \$33 million to the fund and another \$5 million for administrative expenses.

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KADUNA (OPECNA) — The Nigerian government has released over \$9 million as extra-budgetary allocation for the implementation of a \$47 million agricultural insurance scheme.

Announcing the step at a ceremony here marking the official

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Peanuts

More than 1,500 missing in Philippine ferry disaster

MANILA (R) — More than 1,500 people were missing on Monday after a Philippine ferry crammed with Christmas travellers sank in flames late on Sunday in what could become the world's worst peacetime shipping disaster.

Both the Manila-bound inter-island ferry, Dona Paz and the Victor, a small tanker, sank in the tropical waters off the central Philippine island of Mindoro after colliding in the moonless darkness, the coastguard said on Monday.

Renato Asistorga, 19, one of only 26 survivors listed by the coastguard, said the water teemed with more bodies than rescuers could cope with.

"I saw the floating bodies of children and old people in the water. The rescuers did not pick them up any more, they were

hoping some survivors could have been washed ashore in the many areas where there are no communications.

But a spokesman said the dawn could bring a grisly sight. "Bodies will normally sink, and then they will float back up. In 24 hours they could float or be washed ashore," he said.

At nightfall both the coastguard and the ferry's owners, the Sulphur Lines, said they had failed to find any trace of either vessel or any more survivors in the search which was hampered by rain.

"It's all negative," said Sulphur Lines Vice-President Carlos Go. "We have four ships there and we've found nothing at all."

The coastguard said the Dona Paz manifest listed 1,493 passengers — the number it was licensed

to carry — but said it carried more than 100 more who did not buy tickets.

Fifty crew were listed on the ferry and 13 on the tanker.

Lieutenant Robert Noblefranca, commander of the coastguard station in the Leyte Island port of Tacloban, said the Dona Paz was packed when it left the port on its tragic voyage at 5.30 a.m. on Sunday.

He said passengers with passes from the shipping line would not have been on the manifest, along with those with no tickets and many children.

In history's worst recorded peacetime sea disaster, 1,503 people were killed when the liner Titanic sank after hitting an iceberg in the Atlantic on its 1912 maiden voyage.

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Afghan offensive forces rebels to seek help

ISLAMABAD (R) — A major Afghan government offensive has forced anti-Communist guerrillas to call for help to maintain their prolonged siege of the eastern garrison town of Khost near the Pakistan border, according to guerrilla sources.

They said on Sunday the area's main guerrilla Commander Jalaluddin Haqqani asked for reinforcements after an advance by Soviet and Afghan government forces towards the town in Pakhtia province, which borders Pakistan.

On Saturday Moscow television showed a film of the troops

shelling what a Soviet reporter called rebel strongholds and arms-supply routes in a snow-capped mountain range in the Khost district.

The guerrilla sources said the Soviet and Afghan government troops, operating from the main staging area of Gardez, had occupied some strategic heights midway between the provincial capital of Gardez and Khost.

The Pakistan-based guerrilla parties are preparing to send reinforcements in response to the request from Haqqani, who belongs to the Hezb-I-Islami Party of Mohammad Yunis Khalis.

Hezb-I-Islami has played the major role in blockading Khost area during the nine-year-old guerrilla war. But the guerrilla sources said elements from other six parties in the major guerrilla alliance fighting the Soviet-backed Afghan government were also fighting in the area.

They said the appeal for reinforcements was addressed to all the parties in the alliance, presently headed by Khalis.

The offensive follows a warning by Afghan President Najibullah at the end of November of military operations if the rebels failed to make peace.

Cosmonauts launched on 3rd mission to Mir

MOSCOW (R) — Three Soviet Cosmonauts were launched in a Soyuz spacecraft on Monday on what is expected to be a third long-term mission to the orbiting station Mir.

Mission Commander Vladimir Titov, flight engineer Musa Manarov and research scientist Anatoly Levenchenko lifted off at 2:18 p.m. Moscow time (11:18 GMT) from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Soviet Central Asia.

The launch of their Soyuz TM-4 spacecraft was broadcast live on Soviet television.

The cosmonauts are expected to dock with Mir on Wednesday to replace Yuri Romanenko, who set a new space endurance record on his current mission.

Moments after lift-off, television showed the cosmonauts inside their Soyuz spacecraft reporting to ground control that the flight was proceeding normally.

Moscow Radio quoted a senior Soviet space official as saying the third mission to Mir was expected to be long-term.

Contras claim capture of 3 towns in Nicaragua

TEGUCIGALPA (R) — The Nicaraguan contra rebels said 7,000 of their guerrillas had launched a major offensive and captured three key mining towns on the eve of new peace talks with the government.

Contra sources said the rebels struck the towns of Siuna, La Rosita and Bonanza in north-eastern Nicaragua early on Sunday and fighting was still raging on Sunday night. They said at least 100 government troops had been killed.

Nicaraguan Defence Ministry sources confirmed the attack, but said the number of troops had been greatly exaggerated.

Adolfo Calero, one of six contra leaders, told Reuters by telephone: "Our troops captured the towns of Bonanza, Siuna and La Rosita and all the territory between."

"I'm not sure if it's our biggest attack ever, but it's certainly the most spectacular. This is the first great step towards the liberation of Nicaragua."

The three towns are in the main Nicaraguan mining areas for gold, silver and copper, on which the government relies for much of its hard currency.

Mr. Calero said 3,000 guerrillas took over the towns, while 4,000 occupied the surrounding countryside.

"In each of the attacks we destroyed the Sandinista barracks, and in Bonanza captured a government arsenal," Mr. Calero said, speaking from a Central American country he did not name.

The contras have an estimated 12,000 troops.

In the six years since the U.S.-backed force began its struggle to overthrow the Nicaraguan government, they have never been able to hold territory in the face of vastly superior Sandinista firepower and an army of about 75,000.

The attack came a day before a second round of peace talks in Santo Domingo and a day after the White House and Congress reached tentative agreement to provide \$8.1 million in new U.S. aid to the rebels.

Mr. Calero said there was no reason why the fighting should disrupt the negotiations on Monday.

"If they (the Sandinistas) break off the talks, that's their business... we've always said we'll keep on fighting, but that we're willing to talk to achieve peace at the same time."

In a radio message to a contra group in Miami, rebel leader Enrique Bermudez called the offensive a success.

Ugandan troops harass Kenyans in Kampala

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Ugandan soldiers arrested six Kenyan diplomats in Kampala, the Ugandan capital, questioned them at a military barracks and then blocked them from leaving their embassy for 19 hours, according to a government statement reported in Monday newspapers.

According to the newspapers, the Kenyan Foreign Ministry statement also said Ugandan troops ransacked four of the diplomats' homes.

The report follows Kenya's expulsion Saturday of Uganda's two top diplomats in the wake of last week's four-day outbreak of shooting along the East African neighbours' border.

Kenya has reported killing 26 Ugandan troops in the border shootings. Uganda has said two of its soldiers died.

The shooting was the most serious clash in a year-long diplomatic row between the countries. Each side accuses the other of starting the conflict by sending armed troops across the border.

"These acts of detaining diplomats and ransacking their houses is clearly a serious violation of the Geneva Convention on diplomatic privileges," said the Kenyan

statement, which was given to the local press Sunday.

No immediate comment was available from the Ugandan government.

The Kenyan statement said six diplomats in Kampala, including Acting High Commissioner W. Ndege, were arrested by Ugandan security forces Saturday morning and taken to army headquarters where they were questioned for eight hours.

After they were released, the diplomats went to the Kenyan High Commission building, which soon after was surrounded by soldiers who would not allow the Kenyans to leave until Sunday afternoon, the statement said. The troops also surrounded the homes of other Kenyan diplomats who were not at the commission building, according to the statement.

It was not possible to confirm Radio Uganda weekend reports that officials of enterprises in which Uganda owns the majority of shares have been ordered to leave Kenya by Monday. People who answered telephones at the businesses, including the Uganda Coffee Marketing Board, said they were not authorised to speak to reporters.

Ershad renews poll pledge

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh President Hossain Mohammad Ershad, battling opponents trying to topple him through protracted unrest, has renewed a pledge to ensure honest balloting in future elections.

Gen. Ershad called dissident politicians "terrorists" as Bangladesh braced for the latest opposition-called general strikes on Tuesday and Wednesday, which economists warned could further damage the country's already fragile economy.

"The election commission will announce the date for fresh polls soon and let me assure all once again that it's going to be a free and fair vote," he told a meeting of rural officials on Sunday.

"But I will do nothing beyond the purview of the constitution," he said in reference to opposition demands that he first resign and hand over power to a caretaker government before an election is held.

The opposition says Gen. Ershad rigged parliamentary and

presidential polls in 1986 and that future elections under him will be the same.

On Sunday, he freed six more political detainees in a continuing attempt to lure opposition leaders to talks he proposed to discuss the election plans.

His release coincided with a U.S. statement that Washington hoped the worst political unrest in Gen. Ershad's nearly six years in power would be resolved through dialogue.

"The United States hopes that a dialogue which should include all political elements will lead to a peaceful and constitutional resolution to the current situation," the U.S. embassy statement said.

Earlier Ambassador Willard De Pree conferred with main opposition leaders. Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina and Bangladesh Nationalist Party Chairman Begum Khaleda Zia.

This sparked speculation that Mr. De Pree was trying to negotiate peace between Gen. Ershad and his opponents.

Hart appeals for Americans to decide

NEW YORK (R) — Presidential candidate Gary Hart called on Sunday for Americans to decide if he is a joke or a serious contender for the Democratic nomination in 1988, while polls continued to show him leading the race.

"Look, if I'm a joke, let the people say that," Mr. Hart said in an interview with Time magazine published on Sunday, five days after he reentered the race for the Democratic nomination after withdrawing seven months earlier.

"I am not an unstable person. I wouldn't be doing this if I didn't think there was something serious out there for me."

Polls released by Time, Newsweek and the Des Moines Register on Sunday all placed Mr. Hart on top of the Democratic field, with the support of about 30 per cent of those polled and leading his nearest competitor by at least eight points.

"Why is it," Mr. Hart asked, "that the people of this country understand what is really important, but that the politicians and the press do not?"

Asked in a television interview on Sunday whether it was a dark time for him when he withdrew from the race last spring, Mr. Hart said:

"Oh, very, oh — worst period of my life. Worst period of my life. Awful."

Mr. Hart said in the interview that he re-entered the race because "I didn't want to wake up next Sunday or next week and say 'oh my God, I wish I'd run for president.'"

He said his surprise Dec. 15 announcement was timed so that he could still get on the ballot for early primaries, but he denied that he entered the race to collect federal campaign funds to repay about \$1 million in debts from his 1984 bid.

Asked if he would have run had there been a clear frontrunner, Mr. Hart said:

"If one of the six, original seven, if one of the national leaders who chose not to run jumped in this race, jumped to the forefront (with) 35, 40, 50 per cent in the polls, was articulating a vision for our party and our country, people were excited and it looked like this was a person who ought to lead the Democratic Party, of course not."

"I will set my future course by humbly accepting the opinions and guidance of the people," he said.

Kim Young-Sam, who said earlier he regretted the failure to field a single opposition candidate, met with leaders of his Reunification Democratic Party Monday and decided "all-out efforts" for the struggle against fraud will continue, officials said.

Without mentioning protests, they said a special party committee on election fraud would begin thorough investigations, collecting and publicising data on corruption.

The South Korean government vowed on Monday to deal sternly with rumour-mongers trying to trigger unrest by alleging last week's presidential elections was rigged.

Prosecutor-General Lee Jong-Nam told reporters a string of rumours spread rapidly in the wake of the opposition's defeat in the country's first direct presidential vote in 16 years.

"Those rumours have been fabricated by some students and dissidents to foster the atmosphere that the election was systematically rigged and to generate massive riots by disgruntled forces," Mr. Lee said.

Passersby snatch spilled chocolate

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP) — Four thousand gallons (15,200 litres) of liquid chocolate poured over a highway ramp from an overturned truck, attracting passersby who grabbed chunks of the candy that hardened in the cold, police said. "We'll cut off the outside part — what's inside is perfectly good," said one person who made off with a plastic trash bag full of chocolate after the accident Sunday. "We'll give it to the neighbourhood kids. I guess," said another. "There's enough to last 21 years." Police closed an adjacent highway ramp, and a state road crew used a snow plow to scrape the chocolate off the roadway. The truck driver, who was not identified, suffered cuts on both arms when the truck flipped over and hit a tree, authorities said. He was treated at a hospital and released. The chocolate had been bound for Indianapolis, authorities said.

Tallahassee was site of 1st Christmas

TALLAHASSEE, Florida (AP) — The first Christmas celebration in what is now the United States, a mass held in 1539 by Spanish soldiers following explorer Hernando De Soto, was probably a spare, tense affair, researchers say. The mass was held at an Indian village near Tallahassee, according to records and new archaeological evidence. "It was probably a fairly basic celebration since it was an occupation under hostile conditions. I doubt it was an elaborate affair," said Jim Miller, chief of archaeological research for the Florida Department of State. "There's very little mention of it in the (De Soto) documents." The site of the celebration, under excavation since it was pinpointed in March, yielded the first archaeological evidence of the De Soto trek. Researchers have culled 2,000 bags of artifacts, including a Spanish coin minted about 1517, teeth and jawbone fragments from a pig and a tooth from a horse. De Soto is credited with bringing the first pigs to what is now the continental United States and the first horses to north Florida. His journey began on May 30, 1539, and he arrived in the Tallahassee area the following October. The Spanish expedition discovered 250 deserted huts that probably were abandoned by the Apalachee Indians when they heard that De Soto, notorious for his cruelty, was heading in their direction. The De Soto troop made winter camp in the area before continuing its four-year, 4,000-mile (6,400-kilometre) trip that ended at the Mississippi River after De Soto's death in 1542.

Civil servants warn of VDU dangers

SYDNEY (R) — Australian civil servants were warned by their trade union on Monday to keep away from VDUs (visual display units) if they intended having children. The Australian Public Service Association said in a bulletin issued to members that recent research in Canada indicated pulsating low-frequency radiation from VDUs caused birth defects in chicken embryos and mice. "Researchers are now finding that people who are exposed to even small amounts of electrical energy such as VDU radiation may have the interaction of the cells altered. The question being asked by researchers is — can small amounts of radiation cause birth defects in humans?" the union said. It advised members to demand all VDU surfaces be screened with a conductive mesh or coating to "drain away" all radiation emissions.

China's forests threatened by cutting

PEKING (AP) — Half of China's 131 forestry administrations will have no trees left within 10 years if the nation doesn't overcome problems of over-cutting and poor management, according to Forestry Minister Gao Dezhuan. Mr. Gao told a weekend conference that treeless forestry administrations could hit 70 per cent by the end of the century if things don't change, the official China Daily reported Monday. He said foreign loans and technology will be introduced and tough measures will be taken to protect China's forests, which now cover about 12.7 per cent of the nation's territory. Mr. Gao, former governor of north-east China's Jilin province, was appointed minister following the dismissal of Yang Zhong, who was criticised for his handling of a huge forest fire in north-east China last spring that killed 193 people. He said the loss of trees, particularly in the upper and middle reaches of major rivers, has led to great ecological damage from floods, drought, wind storms and desertification. About 1,000 square kilometres of Chinese land turns into desert every year. Mr. Gao said that despite major tree planting campaigns over the past three decades, only 33 million hectares (82 million acres) of tree plantations, one-third of the area planted, have survived because of poor management. He said the government plans to impose quotas on logging and require loggers to have certificates. About 11 billion yuan (\$3 billion) will be invested in planting 6 million hectares (15 million acres) of fast-growing trees in the next 12 years.

Veteran actress feted

LONDON (AP) — Dame Peggy Ashcroft, the veteran theatre actress who won an Oscar three years ago for the movie A Passage to India, was feted two days before her 80th birthday as one of Britain's most admired talents. "I'm nuts about Peggy. I love Peggy. Peggy can do no wrong, has never done any wrong, will do no wrong," Trevor Nunn, the Tony Award-winning director, said midway through "Her Infinite Variety," an evening of tributes that took its title from the description of Cleopatra in Shakespeare's Antony and Cleopatra. "I think Peggy will be remembered as a great, great actress... at a time of great, great acting," said director Sir Peter Hall. The three-hour programme at the Old Vic Theatre, devised by Royal Shakespeare Company Actor Tony Church, concluded with two standing ovations, as Dame Peggy recited the epilogue to Shakespeare's As You Like It. Before the gala, Church said the actress represented "A wonderful combination of great style and natural dignity." "It has to do with the quality she has as a person as well as an actress," he said of the performer, who was born Dec. 22, 1907, in the South London suburb of Croydon, the daughter of a real estate broker and an amateur actress.

Hart's book resemble one by Gifford

LONDON (R) — A spy thriller written by Democratic presidential contender Gary Hart bears an uncanny resemblance to a spy novel written by another U.S. author, a British newspaper said on Monday. The Guardian newspaper, in a tongue-in-cheek article headlined "Enter at the Double, Gary Hart the Author", drew strong comparisons between the Double Man, which Hart wrote jointly with Republican Sen. William Cohen, and the Gifford Legacy by Thomas Gifford. Gifford's tale was first published in 1978. The Double Man, recently launched in paperback in Britain, was first published in 1985. "Both are labyrinthine tales of intrigue whose leading characters share the name Chandler," the Guardian said. It said both Chandlers are tall, dark-haired handsome men harassed by the CIA and the KGB — Hart's hero when he threatens to reopen the assassination files on President Kennedy and Gifford's hero when he tries to authenticate documents showing George Washington was a British agent during the war of independence. Both Chandlers are bound by the press and beaten up, both find comfort in the arms of their helpmates, "large-eyed and beautiful women who are fond of their cats," the newspaper said. The Guardian said: "The striking similarities of the two novels lie not in identical passages, but in the structure, tone and dramatic personae surrounding two principled men out of their depth in international mayhem," it said.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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HAVE A HEART!

Both vulnerable. East deals.
NORTH
♠ Q865
♥ J943
♦ A3
♣ Q24
WEST
♠ 1043
♥ AK865
♦ Q975
♣ 97
EAST
♠ K972
♥ Void
♦ K1082
♣ A6532
SOUTH
♠ AJ
♥ Q1072
♦ Q648
♣ KJ10
The bidding:
East South West North
1 ♠ 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♣
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ 3 ♣
Pass Pass Dbl Pass
Pass Pass
Opening lead: Three of ♠

The Blue Ribbon Pairs, premier event of the Fall North American Championships held recently in Atlanta, was won by two internationalists playing together for the first time. They were the highest-ranked U.S. star in the world, Bob Hamman of Dallas, and San Francisco Ron Von der Horst, who co-authored a book with our senior columnist and is a regular on Goren Bridge cruises. And for those who think that the methods we have espoused over the years are passe, we take pleasure in recording that they were the only pair in the final

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